ORGANIZATIONS

Many civic, social, and religious organizations have played important roles in the development of the township. Especially important were those groups that met to reform or improve conditions within the town. The formation of a Temperance Society of Norwegians at the Even Heg barn in 1848 was an early example of an influential organization.

During the 1870's, the North Star Debating Society brought issues of a political or social nature before the public.

The fishing clubs of the late 1800's and early 1900's publicized the recreational value of the lakes area and gave an impetus to growth around Wind Lake.

The Wind Lake Improvement Association, established in 1936 and incorporated in 1938, was dedicated to the improvement and growth of the lakes area. Early accomplishments of this organization included the assignment of a house numbering system for the town and publishing a town directory in 1939.

Other organizations created to benefit the town include the Wind Lake Lions formed in 1966, the Wind Lake Chamber of Commerce established in 1969-1970, the Tri-Lakes Conservation group organized in 1974, and the Jaycees also begun in 1974.

WIND LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
A disastrous fire at Uyvari's Resort in August of 1946 stimulated a group of dedicated Wind Lake residents to form a volunteer fire department. It had taken fire equipment from neighboring departments thirty minutes to reach the fire and the resort had been largely destroyed.
The first fire truck, Old Sparky

The first organizational meeting of the volunteers was held on June 17, 1947. The new organization held many fund raising activities, including an annual parade and picnic.

The first piece of fire equipment was bought in 1947 for $450 and dubbed "Old Sparky." The ground breaking ceremony for the first fire house was held April 17, 1948 on land donated by Oliver Hoganson of Wind Lake Lumber. The work and materials for building the fire house were donated by volunteer members and many other concerned individuals. The first fire house is now being used by Human's Home Modernizing.
Trucks in front of original firehouse. Photo taken in 1951. Men in picture from left to right are Jacob Laupan, Harry Cohen, Lloyd Human, Rudy Satterstrom, Al Fischer, unknown, Eugene Huckman, Harvey Flancher, Nick Braun, Chief Bert Collard Davis Witty, Frank Zenisk, and S.J. Kirchgaster.
As the fire department acquired new equipment, there was a need for a larger structure. A new fire house was built at its present location and a dedication ceremony for this new building was held on April 27, 1968. Still later, a second station in the southern portion of the township (Highways S and K) was created in a former town garage.

The fire department has through the years acquired much sophisticated equipment for both rescue and fire fighting. The men are extensively trained in the use of this equipment and in life saving techniques.

The fire department remains a volunteer organization with many dedicated members on a 24-hour alert. The Town of Norway has in recent years subsidized equipment purchases and operational expenses.