



City of East Gull Lake
 10790 Squaw Point Rd
 East Gull Lake MN 56401

MAYOR
 Dave Kavanaugh

COUNCIL MEMBERS
 Carol Demgen
 Dennis Lang
 Scott Hoffmann
 James Ruttger

Fall 2015

Mayor's Message

July 12th, 2015 is a day not many of us are likely to forget. It was the day of 'The Storm' and our City will never look quite the same. While it is an event we all wished wouldn't have happened, it also showed all of us the value of neighbors and friends. Everyone I have talked to in the City expresses their gratitude for this community. We all worked together to recover from the storm and it was an amazing glimpse of neighborly love!

I especially want to thank our City staff for their extra effort during the storm. They all worked very hard in the days following the storm. I also want to thank the Cass County Sheriff's Department who helped with road clearing the night of the storm so there were routes for emergency staff if needed. Staff from the Pillager Fire Department also helped the night of the storm and several of the volunteer firemen even walked into hard hit areas checking on people and properties.

Kudos to all!

East Gull Lake Newsletter going digital...

Next Spring the City Newsletter will not be mailed to each resident. Instead, a digital copy will be available on the website and a few copies will be available at City Hall for those without internet capabilities.

If you would like notification of the availability of future newsletters, please sign up for email alerts on the City website.

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Our first year with the Pillager Fire Department as our fire protection service has gone very well. The transition was seamless! This was a good decision on the part of the Council.

I also attended the dedication of the bench in memory of Sharon Dumbeck this summer. I have known Sharon and Frank Dumbeck since 1969 as I grew up with their three children; Frank Jr., Teresa, and Tim. They are a wonderful family and I will miss Sharon.

Finally I want to thank Dr. John Simons, who presented to the Council in September a framed print of an early plat of the south side of Gull Lake. It is a very interesting document. Please come and view it at City Hall.

I hope your storm clean-up is going well and please contact Rob or Kathy at City Hall with any questions about City services.

*Regards,
 Dave Kavanaugh, Mayor of East Gull Lake*

New Welcome Brochure

The City, in cooperation with Cass County Emergency Operations Plan, has developed a Resource Directory. We have combined the information into a Welcome Brochure for your convenience. It is available online on the City Website or if you would like a hard copy, stop by City Hall or contact us to send one to you.

Nixle Alerts Now Available from Cass County



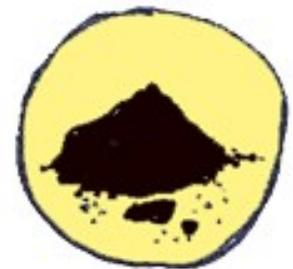
Cass County has joined the Nixle alert system so now residents can sign up and receive notification via phone or email of emergency alerts. Nixle is a company that offers notification services for local police departments, county emergency management offices, municipal governments and their agencies. Cass County can alert residents by using Nixle for critical situations such as Severe Weather Events, Evacuations, Safety Hazards, and Security Threats. The Nixle service allows government agencies to send messages to local residents via phone, email and web. Information is delivered almost instantly. Nixle serves government agencies and organizations in all 50 states. To sign up for these alerts visit the Cass County website, <http://www.co.cass.mn.us/>, and click on the 'Nixle Alert' tab.

Free Compost Available Courtesy of Roger Landsburg

Roger Landsburg, of Landsburg Landscape Nursery located on Highway 371 North, has generously offered to screen the compost material located at the East Gull Lake Pine Beach Waste Water Plant. This site, on County Road 18 just south of Madden's Classic Clubhouse, collects leaves, garden material and grass clippings from area residents. In the past we have had to pay to remove the compost material as needed. Landsburg will use some of the compost material for a nursery site located in East Gull Lake and he will also provide to residents free of charge, screened compost material based on availability.

Typically there will be around 10 – 20 yards of screened compost that is excellent as a soil conditioner for gardens and other landscape projects around your home. It is important to note that because this compost

is a soil conditioner and not actual soil, it should be mixed or tilled into your existing flower or vegetable garden. It can also be used as a top dress for your lawn in damaged areas for quick germination of new lawn seed. The compost will make a better home for all your plants. This is a great service to our community and will create a much more organized dump site, along with saving us money.



Our Thanks to Roger Landsburg!

Framed Plat of the South End of Gull Lake Presented to the Council

Dr. John Simons, long time resident of the Pine Beach Peninsula, presented a framed Plat of the T.W. Harrison Estate Property from the South end of Gull Lake to the East Gull Lake City Council at their 9/1/15 meeting. T.W. Harrison was from Kansas City, Missouri and was the primary developer of what is now Madden's Resort, the Pine Beach Peninsula and other areas on the south end of Gull Lake. The land plat is dated June 7, 1927. Some examples of land values

listed at the time were: 2700 feet of lakeshore with 95 acres of land on Wilson Bay, \$4,500; 1400 feet of lakeshore and 65 acres on Wilson Bay, \$3,250; and 34.4 acres on Steamboat Bay, \$3,500. Oh how we wish we'd invested at that time!

Thank you Dr Simons for donating this print!

Stop by City Hall to view it.

Memorial Bench Dedication



Photo from ceremony on Tuesday, July 7th on the shores of Dade Lake at the residence of Frank and Sharon Dumbeck.

Pictured Left to Right: Frank Dumbeck Jr., Mayor Dave Kavanaugh, Teresa Dumbeck, Krista Dumbeck, Frank Dumbeck Sr., Dennis Lang, Tim Dumbeck, Ben Dumbeck, Scott Hoffman, and Carol Demgen; posed sitting and standing around the Memorial Bench.

In a beautiful setting overlooking the shores of Dade Lake on property set aside by the City of East Gull Lake for nature trails, multi-use trails and a public airport facility, a gathering was held this summer. East Gull Lake Mayor Dave Kavanaugh, current Councilors: Carol Demgen, Scott Hoffmann, Dennis Lang, former Councilor/current City Administrator Rob Mason; along with the family and friends of Frank and Sharon Dumbeck, held a Memorial Bench dedication ceremony. The Dumbeck family donated the bench in memory of the late Sharon Dumbeck.

Mayor Dave Kavanaugh spoke inspiring words reflecting on his personal 46 year relationship with the Dumbeck family and thanked Frank Dumbeck for his excellent volunteer work in helping to maintain the wonderful trails and airport facility near his home.

Residents and guests of East Gull Lake are encouraged to visit this beautiful area of our city as we continue to expand and improve the excellent trail system that has been developed throughout our area.

MPCA Awards City Staff a Certificate of Commendation



Joe Janson accepted a Certificate of Commendation from the MPCA. The Certificate is awarded to East Gull Lake City staff in the wastewater department for meeting all permit standards in 2014 without any issues. All paperwork was sent in on time and the City wastewater system met all the high quality wastewater standards including limits for phosphorus, mercury, sulfate and solids.

Thank you, City staff for a job well done!

If you are leaving for the winter, please leave the electricity ON to your wastewater lift stations.

East Gull Lake Council Meetings:

First Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st, Jan. 5th, Feb. 2nd and March 1st.

East Gull Lake Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings:

Last Tuesday of month (except Dec.), 6:30 p.m., Oct. 27th, Nov. 24th, Jan. 26th, Feb. 23rd and March 29th.

See the Calendar section on the website for additional meetings and updates.

www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com

Reflections on the Storm of the Century July 12, 2015



This year I celebrate my 40th year of having the privilege of living and working in the City of East Gull Lake. Since, as most of you know, I worked for Madden's Resort for 38+ years, my tenure as City Administrator has not been that long. For my first full year as Administrator, I must say the memories that I will have of the Storm of the Century on Sunday July 12th, 2015 will never be forgotten. We always joked at Madden's how lucky we were to avoid serious storms as in the past they generally veered North or South and missed us. This storm definitely did not miss us!

Immediately after the storm on Sunday night, I checked my home and surroundings for damage and other than losing eight very large oak trees, I was very lucky to have no damage. After that I checked on our road and as far as I could see. Red Oak Drive was covered with fallen trees, I then walked and climbed over downed trees and power lines until I got to Kavanaugh's Resort to check with our Mayor Dave Kavanaugh. He and his brothers were busy clearing a tree that had fallen on a guest's car at the time. We both shared how this storm was worse than anything we had ever seen.

I spent the next morning, like many of you, with two of my neighbors clearing trees for about a quarter mile before I could get a vehicle out to check on the rest of the city. By noon on Monday, we cleared a small trail for a 4 wheeler and were able to see firsthand the devastation around the Sylvan Shores area near my home. I have a small Red Honda Scooter that I used to drive all over the city to see the damage. My first views were of Madden's Resort which suffered probably the most damage of any facility in the City. As I continued my drive through the city, I visited with many of you along the way and I was very proud of all the teamwork that was displayed. Neighbors got together to clear city streets themselves and help each other with their home damage. I heard many stories of local heroes who either owned heavy equipment or hired it to be brought in to help clear the huge amount of debris.

For the first four days after the storm, City Hall was without power, phones or internet. I decided the best way to manage the City was from my home as I was lucky to have underground power that was restored in about 5 hours. The wastewater staff spent the first few nights at the plant manning the facility 24/7 and tending to the many emergencies that occur when power is knocked out. Many residents have emergency generators and the wastewater continues to flow even without power. City staff also arranged for heavy equipment to begin clearing the 49 miles of City roads and 14.5 miles of County roads in our city.

Clearing the roads was a particularly slow process due to the large number of trees and power lines that were down. The crews could not even begin to clear the roads until the power company had given the okay.

In the two months following the storm, we have finished clearing the road right of ways and are grinding the debris area for a second time. I am very grateful for all the Cass County staff's (especially Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk) help in establishing the debris dump site near the Pine Beach Waste Water Plant. Many local and area residents used this convenient site to dump their debris and continue to do so today. This debris site will continue to be available to Cass County Residents until November 1st, 2015 I also want to thank the Cass County Sheriff's office for the excellent protection and care during this time.

Many of our older residents have spent their entire lives in East Gull Lake and it is very hard to hear them reflect on the loss of historic trees, many centuries old. I will never forget the stories they told me about these trees and the tears in their eyes as they cleared away debris to reveal a barren landscape. Parts of trees have been saved by some for memories in fireplace mantels, chainsaw sculptures and other creative things that will live on to preserve the memory of the "Storm of the Century".

Rob Mason City, Administrator East Gull Lake MN

“Ski Antics” ~ “Ski Loons”

It's said history has a way of repeating itself. Sometimes, this comes around in very full and fun circles. Via nostalgic postings on the modern phenomenon called Facebook, several photographs and memories have been surfacing which span decades in the lakes area. One post provided a catalyst for comparatively linking the “*Ski Antics*” water ski club of the 1950's and the new “*Ski Loons*” water ski show team founded this past summer.

Dr. Christopher Dens grew up in Wilson Bay and recently moved back to the area with his wife, Mandy. After participating together in a metropolitan ski club while attending college, they wanted to continue their experience locally. Together with other community members having water ski club experiences and backgrounds, a fledgling group of modern founders navigated from spring brainstorming sessions all the way to August's awesome two show performance at Lum Park in Brainerd.

Remarks exchanged on Facebook with Fred Huff, who grew up on his parents' Bar Harbor Resort in the 50's era of the “*Ski Antics*”, resulted in Fred taking time to jot down and share his memories of shows performed back then. Look for Huff's story on the city website. He writes about the equipment, gear and boats available back then and adds colorful recollections such as: “An unspoken rule (clockwise circle) was the route for pulling skiers.” “There were no life jackets but some people would wear a ski belt which was small and fit around the waist.”

Several East Gull Lake residents have joined and/or support the new ski club, which is open to all aged participants. Information about “*Ski Loons*” can be found by visiting their website: www.skiloons.com or by sending an email to: brainerdskiloons@gmail.com

The very well attended shows at Lum Park showcased a variety of talent, and Fred Huff would be happy to know some segments were presented to the gathered crowd by circling clockwise.

Linda Engel

History Editor and Ski Loon member

The Gull Dam Recreation Site after the Storm

Just like the rest of our beautiful area, the Gull Dam Recreation site had extensive damage from the July 12th storm. Unfortunately, unlike the rest of our area, we have had to move slower with the clean-up. This slowness is due to two major reasons. First, we are a Federal government facility and we must follow the federal bidding process for a clean-up of this magnitude. Secondly, because of the cultural richness of our land, we must proceed very carefully with the clean-up to so we don't damage this treasure.

The bid has now been awarded for the clean-up of the campground, beach and boat launch and the contractor started on September 28th and hopes to have it completed by the beginning of November. The campground and the beach will be open in the spring. The Corp of Engineers did not receive any disaster relief funding for the clean-up so we are especially thankful to all the STS/County volunteers that provided over 1500 hours of clean-up time. Thank you!

The clean-up of the trail area to the south of the beach and boat launch has not yet been scheduled and will be completed at a later date as the funds will need to come from our FY16 budget.

I thank you for your patience with our process.

Mary Kay Larson

Site Lead at Gull Lake Recreation Area



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www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com

What is the cost of the July 12th storm to the City?



Several people have inquired what kind of disaster aid can the City expect in regard to the storm damage. After the storm we met with State of Minnesota officials for HSEM (Homeland Security Emergency Management) and were told that for a Federal Disaster (FEMA) declaration there must be \$7.4 million dollars in public damage. As our damage estimates did not even come close to that amount, we looked at the newly created Minnesota State program of disaster money that was established in 2014 by the legislature. Cass County's amount for eligibility with this program was \$50,849. Our original estimate just for the City of East Gull Lake was around \$450,000; the actual figure currently is slightly more than \$400,000. We also have insurance policies on City buildings and other infrastructure that will cover close

to \$45,000 and the remainder of the expense will be submitted to HSEM for consideration. The State of Minnesota will pay 75% of the eligible cost that are submitted to HSEM, so that estimated payment would be around \$266,250. That leaves a balance of around \$88,750 for taxpayers of East Gull Lake. Our City Council has authorized a storm expense levy of \$75,000 to be applied to the 2016 tax levy being considered at this time. We have submitted a proposed levy in early September of \$671,007 that includes the \$75,000 storm expense. The final levy is due in December of this year and is yet to be determined. Our proposed levy in 2015 was \$634,907 and the final levy came in at \$547,107. Most likely, our final 2016 levy will also be less than the proposed levy. Our City is thankful to have emergency funds in the bank to pay for this disaster and still be able to pay our regular bills on time. It is the Council's intention to be fiscally responsible and restore these emergency funds.