



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

MAYOR
 Dave Kavanaugh

COUNCIL MEMBERS
 Carol Demgen
 Dennis Lang
 Rob Mason
 James Ruttger

Spring 2014

Mayor's Message

After a very long and cold winter I am happy to see the sun shining and the snow gone. As many of you escaped the cold by wintering in the south, the Council stayed busy planning and discussing many of the items included in this newsletter.

I would like to share with you an update on our fire protection services. Currently, we contract with the Brainerd Fire Department. This expense has grown considerably over the past several years and the Council has decided it is time to relook at these services. We have found three options for fire protection; we could remain with Brainerd; switch to the Pillager Fire Department; or switch to the Nisswa Fire Department. Your City Council will make a decision this summer to be implemented for 2015, when our current contract with Brainerd expires.



I would also like to encourage residents to consider becoming a East Gull Lake First Responder. We would really like to add a few new responders to our ranks as this volunteer job is essential to increase the safety in our City. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity you can call either City Hall or me. My number is 218-833-8883.

Dave Kavanaugh,, Mayor of the City of East Gull Lake

Trail Update

After what has seemed like one of the coldest winters on record, we are certainly ready for spring and all the benefits that we enjoy by living in this beautiful area. Our trail system has only small remnants of the great snow we had all winter and soon we will be able to sweep the trails to get them ready for the many residents and guests who use them daily.

Maybe like some of our own budgets lately, we have been conservative on spending money for new things on our trail system. Minor repairs and doing stain and sealer work to preserve the nice fences have been the majority of our efforts.

Saving some of the money we budget annually for trail enhancement and repair is not a bad thing as getting future grants for further expansion depends on matching dollars from the community. In the past we have been blessed by very generous Fund 73 dollars from Cass County (the largest funding source for our trails). Matching money for these funds came mainly from East Gull Lakes Park dedication funds that were paid for by new developments built in the city during our boom economy years. We have had few developments in recent years so this account has not been replenished.

Perhaps now is the time to ask for opinions as to where we should think about expanding our trails in the future. The key to our future expansion of the trail system is working within the existing right of ways for the city and the county so we can spend whatever dollars we have on trail construction rather than acquiring right of way access.

Much discussion was heard when we discussed incorporating a trail system on the Green Gables Road reconstruction project. The message was made very clear to the city council that the majority of residents in that area did not want a trail. The very narrow right of ways and the clearing of trees would have been very challenging and it was decided not to plan a trail until the majority of residents supported it. When we started the trail system

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History Project Update

Whether you weathered winter right here in our city, or traveled (escaped) to other regions and climates, you probably heard the word “vortex” used repeatedly in reference to the severe winter which gripped this area. Wikipedia defines the term as follows: “... a vortex is a region within a fluid where the flow is mostly a spinning motion about an imaginary axis, straight or curved ...”. “Polar” often preceded “vortex” and those two words together easily conjured up multi-sensorial images of epic proportions. Even as this “spring” newsletter is being assembled, another winter storm advisory has settled in. Residents just returning for a relatively late on the calendar Easter may be glancing over the landscape and thinking of Christmas instead.

Perhaps it’s time to put a more positive spin on the term “vortex.” In looking back since publication of the fall newsletter, a flurry of activity and organization has been occurring around the development and construction of the EGL History tab on the city’s website. From this “axis”, additional photos and stories can flow in as our history is cross referenced and woven into a circulating tapestry.

To navigate the link, one starts by moving and holding the cursor over the “EGL History” tab. This opens a drop down link displaying “Photos” and “Stories.” Moving the cursor to “Photos” will allow a choice of clicking “People”, “Places” or “Events”. At the same time, a gray box opens to the lower left on the website. Links in this box can also be used for navigation and exploration. When the cursor hovers over “Stories”, the following choices appear: 1) Links 2) Stories from Newsletters 3) Photos from Stories and 4) Family Stories.

Special thanks to Diane Baakkonen Eksten and Pam Sachs for historical narratives and photos they submitted this winter. If you haven’t checked the website lately, take a few moments to explore the updated postings. While seeing pictures and reading histories, memories of your own and/or your family’s experiences over the years might come to mind. We welcome your input and submissions. For instance, many attended the school house over the years. What do you remember about your education there? Feel free to send narratives to the city, or to request an interview by committee members.

Several interviews have already been conducted, and the committee appreciates the time shared by those families. Stories gathered will soon appear on the website. Follow ups to phone calls from other residents will resume shortly as well. With the website parameters now outlined, ongoing updates and revisions of information can be facilitated.

In one example of historical perspective, this year marks the 85th opening for Madden’s Resort. As the snow piles shrink and the ice goes out, summer breezes will melt away cold winter memories. Residents and visitors will return to enjoy another season of all the amenities and memories our area has to offer. And maybe, just maybe, the Vortexes froze out those nasty migrating spiders and other dangerous species from the south!

Linda Engel, EGL History Writer

If you haven’t already been contacted, but wish to share, please call City Hall (218.828.9279) or Linda Engel (435.714.0618, email oLesengel@gmail.com.)

Duplexes in the City

Based on concerns voiced by nearby single family homeowners, the City of East Gull Lake issued a moratorium on permits for duplexes so they could study the ordinance to determine whether or not sufficient controls are available to the City to protect the health, safety, welfare, and property values of nearby single family homeowners. After study, East Gull Lake is considering an amendment to the current zoning ordinance as it relates to duplexes and other multi-family housing. In lieu of allowing duplexes and other multi-family housing to be constructed under a conditional use permit, the City

is considering requiring they be permitted through a Planned Unit Development (PUD) process. The intent is to require more controls on the developments, thereby protecting the adjacent single family landowners and tenants of the multi-family buildings.

The Planning Commission will consider the preliminary revisions to the ordinance on April 29th at the regularly scheduled meeting with the intent of recommending the City Council schedule a public hearing for the regularly scheduled meeting on May 27, 2014.

*Bruce Buxton,
Chair-EGL Planning & Zoning Commission*

Trail Update, Continued from



years ago, the residents of Gull River Road also opposed any trail construction and we have honored their wishes by not planning any trails in that area as well.

If you enjoy the trail system, but it does not currently come close to your location, please do your best to rally your neighbors

to support a trail if you want us to consider expansion near your area. We are looking for viable routes to expand and when we have options to consider we will put together a plan on how we can fund these expansions. Your input would be much appreciated.

*Rob Mason
East Gull Lake City Council and Trail Committee*

EGL Road Work

The East Gull Lake road improvement project for Green Gables Road and Green Hill Road will resume soon. On or around May 1st underground utility work will resume. Daily traffic disruptions will occur during this time. Then around May 15th road surface work will commence with pavement milling and reclamation followed by small areas of curb and gutter on Green Gables Road. The final step will be laying the asphalt pavement on both roads. Work is expected to be completed in June.

Please be prepared and allow extra time when traveling these roadways in May and early June.

*Jeff Ledin,
Senior Professional Engineer*

Staff Corner



The City offers a convenient alternative to paying your utility bill by check. Direct debit allows you the convenience of paying your bill electronically through the Automated Clearing House. The form can be found on the City's website or at City Hall.

City residents can drop off leaves at 11800 County Road 18. Only leaves and grass clippings can be disposed of at this site. We do not take garbage or branches. There is no fee. Please respect the area and only dispose of leaves and grass clippings.

To contact a Wastewater staff person during regular business hours call City Hall. The on-call phone number is 218-330-7519. This number is answered 24/7 and someone will typically be at your home within the hour.

*Tim Moore,
Interim City Administrator*



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Lake Shore City Hall will be the site of this year's household hazardous waste collection for Cass County residents only. The collection will be on **Tuesday, June 24, 2014 from 12 Noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Lake Shore City Hall**

Items accepted include: electronics, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, unwanted or unusable paint and paint products, adhesives, mercury products, corrosives, pesticides, oven cleaners, cleaning products, and old gasoline.

Do not bring used motor oil, oil filters or antifreeze (can be taken to any county transfer site), explosives or radioactive wastes, or unusable joint compound (can be dried out and disposed of in regular trash).

Calendar of Events

Council Meeting: First Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, Aug. 5th, Sept. 2nd and Oct. 7th.

Planning & Zoning: Last Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., June 24th, July 29th, Aug. 26th and Sept. 30th.

Public Safety: As needed, see calendar on website.

Wastewater & Roads: Third Wednesday of month as needed, 3:00 p.m., May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, Aug. 20th and Sept. 17th.

Budget: As needed, 4:30 p.m. See calendar on website for updates.

Park & Trails: Last Tuesday of month as needed, 4:30 p.m.

History: As needed, 7:00 p.m.

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



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We're on the Web!
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Changes at City Hall



Tim Moore
Interim City Administrator

Brenda Thomes, the City's Administrator for almost five years (and City employee for seven years), has recently resigned. We wish Brenda the best on her new position as City Administrator for the City of Long Prairie. She will be missed.

The Council is working on a plan for Brenda's replacement and hope to have a new City Administrator selected by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Meanwhile, Tim Moore has accepted the position of Interim City Administrator. Tim is from the City of Lake Shore, was the former owner of Lost Lake Lodge, former Lake Shore City Council member and former Chair of the Lake Shore Planning & Zoning Commission. He is currently a member of the Cass County Planning & Zoning Commission and on the Board of Adjustment representing southern Cass County. Please welcome Tim if you get a chance to stop by City Hall this spring.

Kathy Schack has also increased her hours with the City during this transition.

Both Tim and Kathy are available to answer any questions regarding the City at 218-829-9279.