

## *What is the next step on the Gull Dam Road*

Just when we thought the Gull Lake Dam Road embankment issue was solved last fall and traffic across the dam was back to normal, we have been made aware of a more serious issue that has never been brought up before. This issue has actually existed for thousands of years before the Gull Lake Dam was even built in 1911.

Many area residents and tourists have not known of the significant historical nature of this site along the Gull River as it has been an important location for trade and travel since before the United States even existed. Native Americans used the rivers and lakes in our region as the highways and trade routes for thousands of years. The Gull Lake Dam site is very significant to Native Americans who built a village and burial ground approximately 3,000 years ago at this location. They continued to live on Gull Lake until the headwater reservoirs were constructed.

Initial testing of the Gull Lake mounds was completed in 1968 by the University of Minnesota for the proposed development of a recreation area and campground at Gull Lake Dam. This was later followed in 1969 by mound excavation by the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society.

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### **EAST GULL LAKE MEETINGS:**

- ◆ Council: First Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM
- ◆ Planning Commission: Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM, no scheduled meeting in December
- ◆ Committee meetings determined as needed

Please check the City [website](#) for additional meeting information.



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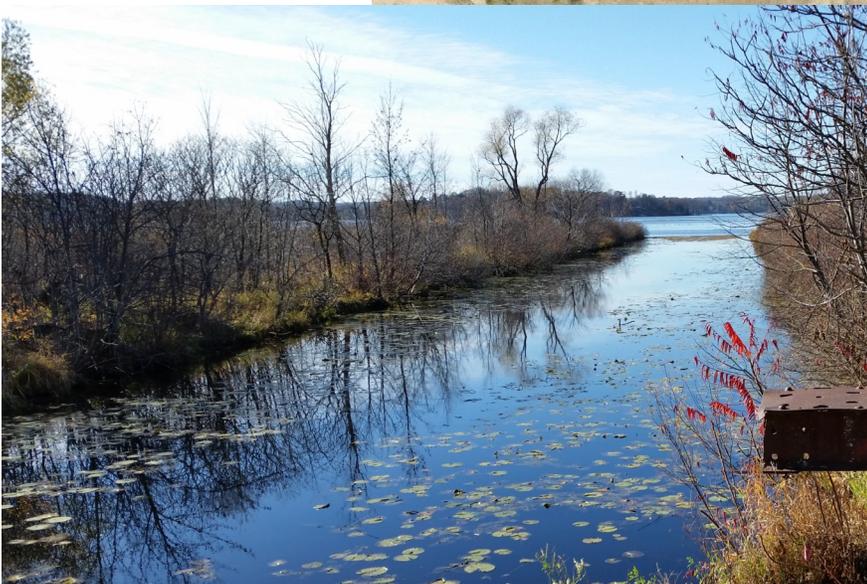
## *Fishing and Recreation in the Channel at East Gull Lake*

**BY WORKING WITH  
CASS COUNTY  
WETLAND SPECIALIST  
AND MN DNR, WE  
HOPE TO CREATE AN  
ATMOSPHERE ALONG  
THE CHANNEL OPEN  
TO WALKING, BIKING  
AND FISHING FOR  
FULL ENJOYMENT OF  
THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA**

The City is currently looking at enhancing the property on the south side of the Gull Lake Channel donated to the City in January of 2017. City Council discussed creating a generous fenced in parking area off Squaw Point road for vehicles of fisherman, fisherwomen and other explorers. Controlling access to the property by gate, limiting motorized vehicle traffic to minimal maintenance equipment and preserving the sensitive wetland within the area is an important concern.

By working with Cass County wetland specialist and MN DNR, we hope to create an atmosphere along the channel open to walking, biking and fishing for full enjoyment of this beautiful area. It is also our intent to provide handicap accessibility by installing a low impact trail that can be maintained by the City and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The MN DNR division of Parks and Trails in Bemidji has expressed interest in assisting the City for provision of a fishing pier that can more easily

accommodate handicapped individuals and others with special needs. This recreational development is planned for completion by creating a facility that requires minimal maintenance and expense to the City. If you have thoughts and ideas on this project, please send us a message, call us, or attend future council meetings to share your thoughts. One of the ideas presented was to have a community garden planned for the property.



## *The Harbor—Progress Report*

Since the project broke ground in the fall of 2016 it has steadily moved forward. With the rainy spring of 2017 it got off to a slower start than was anticipated but the nice weather in the fall helped it to catch up.

During the fall of 2017 the newly built road called "Harbor Place" was paved and now all the utilities are in place. The prime attraction for the development is the 27-slip docking area with direct access to Gull Lake that features very attractive Floe aluminum docking and some beautiful lighting and landscaping along with a path leading to the housing

area. The first of two storage buildings are built with the first layer of pavement installed. Landscaping was put into place just before winter arrived with many new trees that are nicely sized along with boulder walls, shrubbery and some pathways are in place.

Two new model homes have been completed by Baratto Brothers Construction, which are for sale, and have been open over the winter months for tours drawing many curious folks. The pool building is nearly completed and the pool itself and the deck area will be built as soon as the weather allows this spring. Another new

feature to be added is a very attractive golf chipping and putting green to entice those that wish to take advantage of the world class golf that is offered in the East Gull Lake area.

The first home is now being built for new residents to be moved in around Memorial Day. There are four other lots reserved for 2018 construction.

The pool, pool house, putting green area and landscaping are scheduled for end of May 2018 completion and will be ready for Memorial Day enjoyment.

**TWO NEW MODEL  
HOMES HAVE BEEN  
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OVER THE WINTER  
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## Zoning Map Issues

**OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS CITY OFFICIALS WILL MEET WITH LAND OWNERS TO DISCUSS ZONING ISSUES. A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP**

I have been involved with Planning and Zoning for the City since 1996 when I was first appointed to the planning commission. I served as the Chairman of the commission for 14 of 15 years until I was elected to the City Council in 2011. I still served as a liaison from the Council until I was appointed the City Administrator/Planning and Zoning Administrator in May of 2014. I say this to indicate that I have only missed a few meetings in 21 years.

During my first few years on the Commission, there was a City zoning map that hung on the wall showing the different zoning areas of the City hand-colored by magic marker by then Planning Chairman John

Kavanaugh. I was told this map was voted on and discussed with all the landowners. It was hung in City hall for other property owners to view so it could be referred to as the official City zoning map.

Sometime in the late 1990's or early 2000's the map was removed and it was misplaced. Over the period of time from 1996 to 2005 the City hired outside consultants to create an updated Comprehensive Plan. I participated in the process twice and during the second time a digital map was created that was supposed to be a duplicate of the map that hung on the wall in 1996.

As most of you know, I worked for Madden's resort at that time and Madden's built the Classic Golf Course in 1997. When I saw the map that was published in 2005 and the land which the Classic was already built on was zoned residential zones (R1, R2, R3), I raised the question as to how that happened and never received an answer. According to all records available at City Hall, the 2005 map was never adopted by the City Council nor had there been a public hearing. This 2005 map also listed other prominent properties that were pre-existing for many years such as Camp Confidence

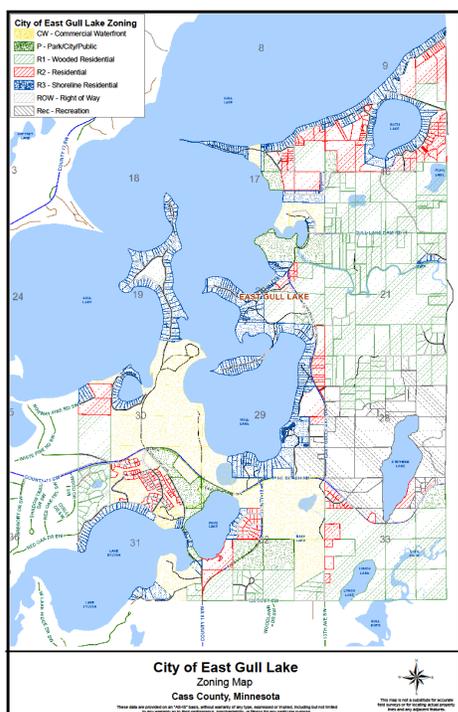
(R3 Residential Lakeshore) and Ernie's South marina property (Open Space), and Ernie's restaurant (R3) which should have been Commercial Waterfront.

The 2017 comprehensive plan update has been completed in house by some very experienced City residents on the planning commission. The next step in the process is to discuss zoning with land owners and have a proper public hearing to adopt an official updated zoning map.

Cass County has worked with me to color code the zoning map using GIS technology. Over the next few months City officials will meet with land owners. A public hearing will be held for further discussion prior to adoption of the official zoning map.

We urge residents to view the online zoning map to help determine the final version of zoning properties for the official zoning map. In most cases the residential property is clearly defined as R3 as Lakeshore, R2 as medium sized residential and R1 as rural residential 2.5-acre minimum.

To view the zoning online, click on the map on this page. Please call City Hall for directions about viewing the online map.



## *Administrative Citation Fines*

After serving on the City Council for over three years and as the City Administrator for nearly four years, I have noticed some of the City Ordinances were hard to enforce. The City official would need to call the Cass County Sheriff's office to file a complaint. The complaint would need to be administered by our City Attorney and the issue would be settled in court. Since some of our fines may only be \$500, the costs and legal fees associated with prosecuting the offense may exceed what the City would receive in fines. The purpose and intent of the amendment to the City Ordinance is to provide an alternative method of enforcement. While criminal fines and penalties have been the most frequent

enforcement mechanism, there are certain negative consequences for both the City and the accused. The delay in the criminal or civil systems does not ensure proper resolution. Citizens resent being labeled as criminals for violation of administrative regulations. The higher burden of proof and the potential of incarceration do not appear appropriate for most administrative violations. The criminal process does not always regard City Code violations as being important. Accordingly, the City Council finds that the use of administrative citations in the imposition of civil penalties is a legitimate and necessary alternative method of enforcement. This method of enforcement is in addition to any other legal remedy

that may be pursued for violations of the City Code. The administrative enforcement procedures seek to gain compliance with the City Ordinance prior to formal criminal or civil court actions. There is an appeals process available to the City Council and mediation to be done by outside individuals not associated with the City of East Gull Lake. The Administrative Citation process allows the City Administrator to resolve situations by speaking to the offenders, informing them the ordinance allows the City Administrator to assess the fine, similar to delinquent wastewater charges, and can be applied to your annual property taxes.

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
CITATION PROCESS  
ALLOWS THE CITY  
ADMINISTRATOR TO  
RESOLVE  
SITUATIONS BY  
INFORMING  
OFFENDERS OF THE  
FINES BEING  
ASSESSED**

## *Gull Lake Campground Clean Up*

A big thank you goes out to all those who contributed their time and energy to clean up the campground on Saturday, April 28, 2018. We are all anxious for the camping season and now we are more ready than ever!

*Thank  
You!!*



## *Gull Dam Road, Continued*

In 1971 the development of the current US Army Corp of Engineers' recreation area began. The building of the current campground consisting of 39 campsites, public beach area, public boat landing, and other amenities followed to the now current excellent facilities we have today.

The problem with the river bank that was discovered on Saturday, September 30, 2017 set in motion a number of different issues that were not a factor for many years. A 1926 lease signed by the Assistant Secretary of War allowed the Village of East Gull Lake the use of the road over the Gull Dam bridge within Federal government property. The lease was revisited by the Corp and a new agreement was proposed. The lease has a clause for a 90-day notice to be issued to East Gull Lake if the Federal Government requires the road to be closed.

Core samples were taken within the road and river to determine the problem and identify what would be required to fix the river bank. Consultation required under the National Historic Preservation Act began with the State of Minnesota historic preservation office and Native American Tribal preservation offices. Tribal representatives and a Corps' archaeologist also visited the site. The Corp of Engineers began repairs to the bank so we could allow the Gull Lake Dam Road to be reopened before winter and not have to use the temporary detour over the Gull River Road.

After Gull Dam Road was reopened, Tribal representatives visited with officials of the Corp of Engineers and requested that the Gull Lake Dam road be closed permanently to vehicle traffic due to the location of the sacred Indian burial mounds being very close and possibly under the existing road. On March 26, 2018 the City received an official notice that the Corps will be collecting traffic data and have meetings this summer with local residents, businesses, Tribes and stakeholders to determine how potentially closing this section of road will impact them. During the winter of 2018-2019 the Corp of Engineers will make the determination whether to close the road to vehicle traffic. Sometime around 2001 both Cass County and Crow Wing County made an effort to build a new road and bridge over the Gull River just southeast of the current dam site.

This new road would start at an intersection next to the City Hall and head south across the Gull River and merge with the existing Cass County 70 near the intersection of Wood Duck Way and Scenic Drive. The proposed road would join Cass County 70, Cass County 105, and Crow Wing County 125 together and form an eligible road for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) funding. This effort in 2001 was fully funded by both County and Federal funds at that time. At that time residents and city officials were opposed to a high-speed road and bridge. They liked the charm of the existing one lane bridge and the views of fisherman, campers and wildlife they had enjoyed for many years. The City turned down the project and the bridge and new road were never built.

### CROSSING THE BRIDGE AT GULL DAM ROAD





## *First Responders Needed*

The First Responders for East Gull Lake are in need of volunteers.

### **Five Things Nobody Tells You About Becoming A First Responder**

Becoming a first responder, whether it is fire, EMS, or police, is easily one of the most rewarding things you can do. You are actively helping people in your community and you see your effect on the world. Not many people can say that.

#### **1. You will see lights everywhere.**

These are bright, flashing warning lights that volunteers use in their personal cars to help them get to an emergency faster. They do not allow us to go through red traffic lights. They don't even demand the right of way on the road. They are courtesy lights, as if to say 'please pull over for us'.

#### **2. You'll be able to tell who's been around and who hasn't.**

People who have been professional firefighters for 20 plus years do not actively talk about all the fires they've seen. You have to ask them, and even then they'll downplay it.

#### **3. Being an EMT isn't anything like on TV**

On EMS-themed TV shows they're always going to hot jobs like car accidents and people in critical condition.

#### **4. There aren't fires every day.**

When you see a fire truck coming up behind you with lights and sirens, statistically speaking they're probably going to a medical call or an activated fire alarm, not a working fire. But that doesn't mean you don't have to move. Get out of the way because it could be a big job.

#### **5. You will never be the same.**

Once you enter this world, you stay. It becomes such a huge part of you. You have to keep on "doin' it."

Anyone interested in joining the East Gull Lake First Responders will receive training paid for by the group. Please contact Dave Kavanaugh (218.829.5226) or Sherry Dobson (218.829.1688) with any questions.

Excerpts from:  
[www.theodysseyonline.com](http://www.theodysseyonline.com)

INTERESTED  
PARTIES WILL  
RECEIVE FREE  
TRAINING, PAID FOR  
BY THE EGL FIRST  
RESPONDER GROUP





## Wetlands—Nature's Water Filter

By Carol Demgen

Wetlands are a reservoir and purifier of water. It is home for our wildlife and waterfowl, reeds, cattails and milkweed.

The monarch butterfly is threatened with extinction thanks to the disappearance of flowering plants, including milkweed, in our wetlands .

When you rake your leaves and clean up brush from your property, please do not dispose of them in our wetlands, as they are the lifeblood of nature.

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**SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS:**  
[www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com)

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## Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Mobile Collection

**Lake Shore City Hall**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2018**  
**1:00 pm — 4:00 pm**

For Cass County Residents Only  
No appointment necessary

### Examples of accepted wastes:

- Unwanted or unusable paint and paint products
- Adhesives, mercury products, corrosives, pesticides, oven cleaners, batteries
- Cleaning products, old gasoline, automotive products (except motor oil)
- Also accepting fluorescent bulbs

### Do NOT bring these items:

- Explosives or radioactive wastes
- Used motor oil, oil filters or antifreeze—these can be taken to any county transfer site at no charge year round
- Unusable joint compound—this should be dried out and disposed of in regular garbage

If you have questions, or need to make an appointment to drop off our wastes at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility north of Pine River at other times call: Cass County HHW facility at Pine River: 888.910.2425, ext 2

Cass County Environmental Service Department at Walker: 218.547.7287

You can also check out information on the Cass County [Website](#).

