

Mayor—Dave Kavanaugh  
 City Administrator:  
 Laura Christensen  
 Administrative Assistant:  
 Kathy Schack

Councilors:  
 Carol Demgen  
 Tim Bergin  
 James Ruttger  
 Scott Hoffman

## *Farewell to Rob Mason, City Administrator*

### **Farewell as City Administrator / Planning and Zoning Administrator**

Rob Mason

By the time you read this I will have retired on April 1st and as my wife Jane has reminded me, I'll be working on all the home projects I have put off over the 37 years of living in my house on Sylvan Lake. Between my 38 years of working at Madden's and the 8 years of working with the City of East Gull Lake, the spring and summer months are very busy.

I have been very blessed to have lived and worked within 5 miles of my home for 46 years. Most people work all their lives to retire here, and I've call it home for a long time.

I have many people to thank for the privilege of staying here this long. First the Madden, Arnold, and Thuringer Families for getting me started and providing me opportunities to advance at Madden's Resort. Working at Madden's also introduced me to my wife Jane and supported our two kids Tony and Brett Mason, Second the Kavanaugh Families for being my friends and to their father Sherm Kavanaugh who talked me into working with the city in 1996. Third is the friends and resort colleagues I have worked with over the years that have made my work and life fun and interesting. People like Randy Lee, Bob Sherman, Jim Benson, Dutch and Irma Cragun, Trevor and Marla Yoho, Allan and Jane Gunsbury family, Fred Boos, Mark Ronnie and Tim Moore of Grandview Resort, Dave Gravadahl of Breezy Point, Jack, and Chris Ruttger. All these go back at least 40 years and there are many more over the years in the resort industry.

The last eight years of my career as city administrator and planning and zoning administrator has gone by very fast. My thanks to the great staff members I have had over the last 8 years. Kathy Schack, Joel Jasmer, Lee Anderson, and Jeremy Ament are the current staff members and all work very hard for East Gull Lake. I must mention our mayor Dave Kavanaugh and City Council members Jim Ruttger, Scott Hoffmann, Carol Demgen, Tim Bergin, and Former Councilor Dennis Lang.

I also can't say thank you enough to the East Gull Lake residents whom I have served with since becoming a Planning and Zoning Commission member in January of 1996, a City Council member in 2010 and your City Administrator in 2014.

I don't plan on moving away anytime soon and I most likely will serve on some type of committee in the future. Thank you for all the memories so far and let the fun begin!

### **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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*Welcome Laura Christensen, City Administrator*

To me, one of the best parts about working for a small entity is the diversity of tasks one becomes responsible for. No two days are the same and your prioritized itinerary can change with one call. Our small city staff of five is passionate about quality service and we work around the clock to address the needs of the city.

I come to the City of East Gull Lake with over ten years of combined experience in land management and administrative work. My career has taken me all over the great state of Minnesota with the hopes of ending up in the Brainerd area. I feel very fortunate to serve the residents of East Gull Lake and work alongside our dedicated team of employees and elected and appointed officials. Coming from humble roots of growing up on a farm in Southwest Minnesota, important to me is working hard and treating everyone and every situation as respectfully and consistently as possible.

I look forward to continuing to listen to your experiences and ideas so, together, we can continue to make East Gull Lake an enjoyable place to live and recreate.



WELCOME

NEW

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LAURA CHRISTENSEN

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WELCOME PUBLIC

WORKS DIRECTOR

MATTHEW

POYTHRESS

*Welcome Matt Poythress, Public Works Director*

My name is Matt Poythress. I am the new Public Works Director for the City of East Gull Lake. Thank you for allowing me to join the community here. Everybody has been extremely welcoming. I am finding that the City's staff is easy to work with and quite knowledgeable.

I have over twenty years of experience in the water/wastewater field. I started my career working for a private company that ultimately became known as Veolia Water. I was based out of the St. Michael and Albertville area. After about ten years there, I started working for the City of Edina in their Utility Division.

I am excited to be here. My family and I are in the process of moving from the Twin Cities area to a farm south of Brainerd. I enjoy fishing, hunting, and working on our gardens. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to work for the City of East Gull Lake.



### *Snow removal By Resident Mailboxes*

After receiving the first large amount of snow this winter, a call was received from Mike Rardin (the snowplow operator) to remind residents it is their responsibility to clear the snow from the road to the mailbox so the delivery person can reach the mailbox.

Please note the snowplow driver does his best to get

close to a mailbox, however if the plow gets too close, the wave of snow created will knock the mailbox off the post and damage it. The City Ordinance does suggest you install a swing away post system which the city sells for our cost of \$35.00. The city will install the swing away unit if you have the mailbox to fit on the post at \$70 per unit.



**MAILBOXES AND  
SNOW REMOVAL**

### *2022 Boat Safety Classes—Ages 12-17*

In collaboration with Cass and Crow Wing Counties, GCOLA is proud to announce the dates of our 2022 Youth Boaters Safety Course. Space is limited so call today to reserve your child's spot.

The attendees must be between 12-17. They will receive a free life jacket, pizza lunch provided by Zorbaz on Gull, and most importantly a MN watercraft operator's permit.

Classes are held at the Gull Lake Yacht club from 9-1 on the following dates:

- June 9
- June 10
- June 16

Call Mary Kay Larson at 218-831-5656 to reserve your spot.

Thank you GCOLA members, your dues and donations make this course a success!



**2022 BOAT  
SAFETY CLASSES**

*2023 Road, Trail and Wastewater Project Update*

**2023 North Gull Point WWTF Decommissioning & Forcemain Re-route to South Pine Beach WWTF and 2023 Street & Trail Improvements Update**

Since the last update, there has been much progress made on the WWTF decommissioning & forcemain re-route project as well as the street and trail improvements project.

As the design and plans of the forcemain re-route to the South Pine Beach WWTF have progressed, WSB discovered that an intermediate lift station is going to be required near the midway point on the route to accommodate for the long distance and high total dynamic head pressure that the new forcemain creates along the way. At the City Council meeting on May 3, 2022, the City Council elected to move forward with the addition of the intermediate lift station. This addition requires a change to the City’s Facility Plan, in which WSB has been working to modify. The City is currently reviewing two sites along County Road 70 to determine the most beneficial location for this lift station. The city is considering the future potential developments planned for in the area, and the design is taking capacity considerations into mind for future sanitary sewer connections into the system.

Concurrently with the forcemain project, there has been continued development on the street and trail project. This improvement would create a new trail along Gull Point Road, soften the curve at Poplar Drive, and create a new roadway into Gull Lake Resort due to a portion of the dam being removed because of the County’s realignment project. The extents of the trail along Gull Point Road are still being determined and will be based on how much funding the city is able to acquire. Currently, the City is working through negotiations with property owners to acquire the access to right-of-way needed to build the new road section for Gull Lake Lane and to soften the curve at Poplar Drive.

WSB has been working closely with Cass County and their design consultant to partner the cities projects with their County Road. By closely coordinating all these projects in the area at the same time the hope is to see some efficiencies in cost and construction time.

Moving forward, the schedule for the project is expected to be as follows:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
Finalize Preliminary Plans	Summer 2021
Pursue Funding	2021 - 2022
Wetland Delineation	Summer 2021
Geotechnical Exploration	Summer 2021
Final Design	Winter of 2021/2022
Bidding	Spring of 2022
Construction	2023

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**WSB  
2023  
PROJECT  
UPDATE**

## *Speed Limit 25 in Residential Zones*

### **Speed Limit Changes to 25mph in Residential Zones**

Recently the Minnesota State legislature passed a law that states cities may reduce speed limits from what was a minimum of 30-MPH to 25-MPH when certain conditions are met.

There have been frequent complaints over the years with Green Gables Road and speeding. This is a narrow road that has right of way issues that vary from edge of the road to the city standard of 66-foot-wide normal easements.

Back in 2013 the East Gull Lake City Council decided to do a mill and overlay project on Green Gables Road from near Ernie's Res-

taurant to the Crow Wing County line. During the planning and engineering of this project the idea of creating a separate trail was brought up. The feedback from the residents was overwhelming in opposition to this idea as it would take out too many trees and destroy the privacy. Two years later the storm of 2015 took many of the trees. The issue of having enough right of way is still a problem and until a majority of residents along the road request a trail, it will not be considered.

Since we don't have a trail, many residents and their children walk and ride bikes on Green Gables Road. This is a problem with the current amount of traffic. One

of the residents approached the City to consider taking advantage of the new law and making it a 25-mph residential speed zone.

At the December 2021 City Council meeting, it was decided to order new 25-mph signs. After some of the "entering a residential speed zone" signs went up, other calls were received to extend the 25-mph zone.

At the January City Council meeting it was decided to do our best to contact residents via email and other electronic methods "since our mail service is so bad" to find out what the residents would like.

SPEED LIMIT TO  
25 MPH



## *City Snowplow Enhancement*

### **Salt/Sander Added to City Snowplow**

In January of 2019, the city invested in a very nice used 1-ton Chevrolet snowplow. This has served the city well to plow city facilities and plow city roads additionally as needed once Rardin Excavating has completed their runs on larger snowfalls. When the wind blows, we have a number of areas that drift in and the wastewater team plow that with this truck.

Rardin also salts and sands our roads during regular snow plowing. However, when we get extreme winds and other extreme temperature swings, the new salt and sander addition to the city snowplow can be used to handle the trouble spots without using Rardin's services. This helps our response time to take care of dangerous areas.

CITY  
SNOWPLOW  
TRUCK





## *Snow Plow Operator Requests*

By Rob Mason

As we slowly climb out of one of the longest, coldest and most snow winters, the snowplow operator has some information he would like to share.

When we get larger snowfalls of 6 inches or more, he needs to push the snow back as far away from the road as possible to make room for the next snowfall. When residents place stakes to mark the road, please allow extra room off the pavement for that snow to build up over the winter. When you place

stakes on the edge of the pavement this may narrow the road greatly over the winter to cause one lane availability and this causes traffic problems for all residents and safety issues for emergency vehicles.

In most cases the city has right of ways to allow for snow placement. In the early season and late season, we may plow up some grass and that is sometimes unavoidable. They try their best not to do this but that is a hazard of living in the north country. A little raking and some grass

seed and it will be back to normal. The city does not provide the service of raking and seeding in most cases.

For mail delivery to be possible, residents must clean out the snow from around their own mailbox. Over a long winter they can be buried and very difficult for the postal service to reach. We have had bad enough mail service without giving them another excuse, please do your part to help yourself.

SNOWPLOW

DRIVER ISSUES

EAST GULL

LAKE

DEVELOPMENTS

## *New Developments in East Gull Lake*

By Rob Mason

Over the last two years East Gull Lake has issued 68 building permits for new homes in new developments or older homes that have been removed and rebuilt.

The current progress on developments such as.

**Maplewood Ridge** off 120<sup>th</sup> street was platted in the south end East Gull Lake are only 3 lots remain unbuilt out of 14 platted. 7 were recently built in the last two years.

**The Harbor Project** near City Hall began in 2016 and 1 lot remains unbuilt out of 27 platted.

**Cragun' s Legacy Village** development began in 2016 with 38 platted lots. Currently 35 lots have active building permits or have been finished.

**Cragun' s Legacy Ridge** off County Road 77 with 10 lots in East Gull Lake and 55 more lots in Crow Wing County is yet to begin but roads and infrastructure is in place and ready for spring.

With the trend of metro people moving north there are more developments to come as a number of developers have contacted the city and are making plans.

*GCOLA Lake Steward Quiz*

Are You Dreaming  
of clear fresh lake water and great fishing?

[Take the Quiz!](#)

To Rate Your Lakeshore for Clean Water and  
Healthy Habitat  
4 Questions, 3 Minutes

Go to [gcola.org](http://gcola.org) or [Lake Steward](#)

GCOLA  
LAKE  
STEWARD

Hundreds have. No membership required; all are welcome.

Become a Lake Steward and Make Gull Chain Water Quality



Sustainable



Gull Chain of Lakes Association, GCOLA  
Volunteer - Nonprofit - Caring for our lakes

To join GCOLA online, go to [gcola.org](http://gcola.org)



**STATE HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENT  
PARTNERSHIP**

*SHIP in Cass County*

SHIP is the State Health Improvement Partnership, a Minnesota funded and County sponsored initiative to promote Health and Nutrition. The SHIP coordinator in Cass County is Simon Whitehead, headquartered in Walker, and we call our program LiveHealthy. The specific initiatives in Cass County involve Active Living (walkability and bike-ability), Healthy Eating (Community Gardening, Food Shelves, Community Meals), Schools (smarter lunchrooms, physical activity, tobacco cessation), Workplace Wellness, Healthcare (Dementia, Falls Prevention) and Well Being (mental health and resiliency).



As an example, SHIP has help fund and build seven Community Gardens in Cass County, formed a Food Shelf Coalition, spearheaded “Bike Friendly Cities” in Walker and Pine River, formed Memory Cafes for Dementia affected families, spearheaded a Fall Prevention Task Force, formed a Cycling Without Age program (gives Trishaw rides to seniors), started a Master Gardeners program, worked with food service personnel and PE/Heath teachers in Schools,

and is working on a project to build a multi-use trail from Onigum to The Shingobee Connection.

To contact Simon Whitehead call 218-547-6843 (office) or 952-220-1060 (cell) or email: [swhitehe@umn.edu](mailto:swhitehe@umn.edu).





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

## Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Mobile Collection

**Lake Shore City Hall**  
**Thursday, June 23, 2022**  
**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: 218.547.7241  
You can also check out information on the Cass County [Website](#).

