

LifeCare's History in Ross Township

Most rural townships do not have the benefit of having an ambulance stationed in their township. Fortunately for area residents, LifeCare Ambulance bases one of its Advanced Life Support (ALS) units in the Ross Township Hall. The ambulance is staffed with a crew of one paramedic and one EMT, and stands ready to respond to emergencies in Ross and Barry Townships.

Ross Township has a long history of having an ambulance based in the township. Starting in the early 1970's Gull Lake Area Ambulance was formed so residents did not have to wait for an ambulance to respond from Kalamazoo. It operated at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level and relied on volunteers EMT's and Advanced First Aides to staff the ambulance and answer the emergency phone. Volunteers also governed the operations through a membership Board of Directors, which reported to the Ross Township Board.

This was successful for meeting community needs for over 15 years. As training and certification standards increased, less volunteers were available to cover shifts, so Gull Lake Ambulance began using paid staff to cover shifts, as well as hiring a paid manager. At that time, if a patient was seriously ill or injured they had to meet up with an ALS unit from Kalamazoo or Battle Creek. In 1990 Ross Township realized the value of having a locally based ALS ambulance and selected LifeCare Ambulance to provide this service.

LifeCare Ambulance was established as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 agency in 1983. Headquartered in Battle Creek, LifeCare provides ambulance service throughout 7 counties in southern Michigan. It is governed by a volunteer board of Directors comprised of area business and community leaders, including Gull Lake area resident Skip Sherriff.

When an emergency happens, people focus on a rapid response to their 9-1-1 request and expect quality medical care. People also know that health care can be expensive. To help combat unexpected costs of using an ambulance service, LifeCare offers a program called MemberCare. For an annual fee of \$38, a family can avoid out of pocket costs associated with emergency ambulance calls, including the ever-increasing deductibles and co-pays many insurance plans now have. More information about this program can be found at www.lifecareems.org, by calling 731-4561 or picking up a MemberCare brochure from the Ross Township offices.

Ross Township Parks Committee Trucks and Tunes is Back!

After a successful first year, the Ross Township Parks Committee is putting on Trucks and Tunes again for 2018. This is your chance to visit our fabulous park, get some great food from our food truck vendors, and listen to some fantastic music from local musical artists. The dates for 2018 are:

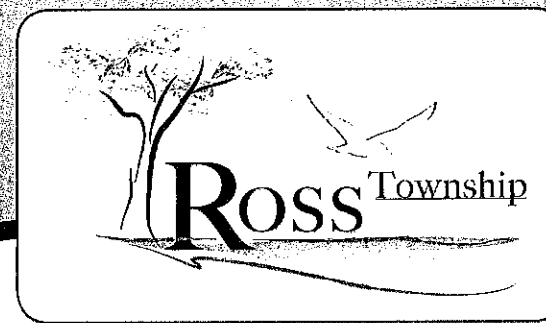
- Monday, June 18th Robby Koets and Sheyla Brown
- Monday, July 9 Double-Strung
- Monday, July 30 Thornapple Jazz Orchestra

Food vendors signed up so far for the event include Boogie Barbeque, Organic Gypsy, and Singh's Cruising Cuisine. New acts and food vendors may be added so check our Ross Township Facebook page for more information. The event runs from 6 pm until 9 pm and is free admission to the park. Bring your blankets or chairs so you may relax and have dinner and a show with beautiful Gull Lake as a backdrop. All events are weather dependent.

It's a great way to spend a Monday evening and an even better chance to mingle with others in your community. We can't wait to see you there!



12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
269-731-4888
www.ross-township.us



NEWSLETTER
Spring 2018

Hello Ross Township Residents!

This is our first newsletter in sometime but we look forward to communicating more frequently in the future, either by email or the newsletter.

This newsletter will highlight four distinct groups within our community. First, we pay tribute to Rich Pierson for his thirty-three years of leadership at the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority (GLS&W). Rich will be retiring to the Traverse City area. We thank Rich for his service and wish him health and happiness for many years.

We are pleased to introduce John Crumb as the new Director of the GLS&W Authority. John served the city of Holland for the past several years. He will be a great addition to our Township.

Ron Slagell and his LifeCare team impact our community daily. We have a LifeCare team stationed within the Ross

Township Hall. They maintain their presence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A BIG Ross Township thank you to Ron and his team.

One of the GEMS located in our community is the Ross Township Park. Last year was the first year for the "Trucks and Tunes" events. The events were extremely well attended and a great success. The Park's article in this newsletter will highlight the 2018 schedule for "Trucks and Tunes" as well as give some insight into future plans for our Park.

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission will highlight our three year infrastructure improvement program. The road improvement program will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

Ross Township is a great community and we are continually moving forward.

Gary Moore, Supervisor

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12086 M-89
RICHLAND, MI 49083



Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority Authority Director Announces Retirement!

March 2018

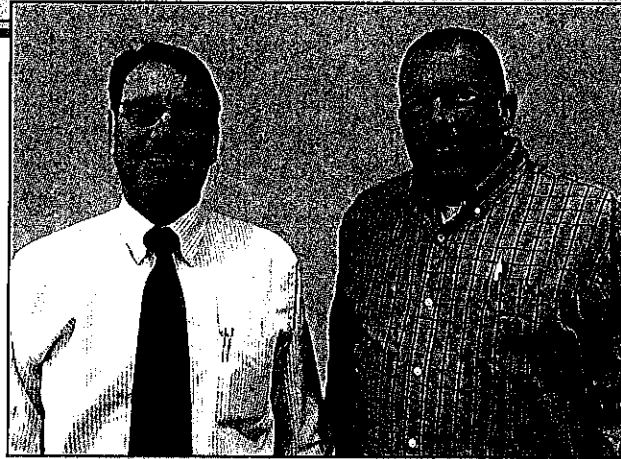
The Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority announces that Director Rich Pierson, age 64, has announced his retirement effective March 28th, 2018, after 33 years of Authority management. Pierson came to the Authority in 1985, 2 years after the public sewers around Gull Lake were constructed. (The public sewer was constructed 1982-1983, and the Authority purchased their current building in 1984.)

Prior to 1985 he worked for Williams & Works Engineers out of Grand Rapids, and before that, he worked as a utility operator in Youngsville, Pennsylvania, his home town. He moved to Michigan in 1977 to obtain a 2-year Associates Degree in Water Purification from Bay College, Escanaba, Michigan, and upon graduation in 1978, went to work for Williams & Works and then the Gun Lake Authority.

While working for the Authority, he obtained his MBA from WMU (1987) and has been at the helm of the Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority for over 30 years.

The GLSWA initially had 998 connections around Gull Lake in Ross, Richland, Barry and Prairieville Townships. These Townships created the Authority, a separate utility enterprise, in 1980 to obtain a federal grant to construct the sewer system. The Authority service district has since expanded to over 2400 connections including Cooper Township, the Village of Richland, and portions of Charleston Township.

Director Pierson believes deeply in customer service and has ingrained that belief within the organization. He believes that the customers, the paying customers, are the true "owners" of the system, and each member of the staff



pledges annually to uphold this "Commitment to Excellence", recognizing the sanitary sewer service provided is on behalf of each and every customer.

In 2014, Mr. Pierson was considering retirement when the State of Michigan offered a \$1,000,000 Asset Management Grant for the Authority to develop, over a 3-year period, a detailed 50-year plan to manage, maintain and replace its capital assets. Mr. Pierson agreed to extend his tenure with the Authority through 2017 to guide the Board (Supervisors of each of the four Townships) and staff through the Asset Management process. The Authority will be presenting its recently completed Asset Management Plan to its six municipalities, detailing the core components of the AMP and the need to continually improve and replace the assets. The Asset Management plan projects annual increases of the sewer use rate of approximately 3.6%, beginning April 1, 2018.

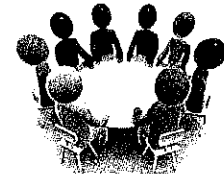
Transition: In the Fall of 2017, the Authority advertised for a replacement Director, and chose John Crumb from the Holland Board of Public Works. We welcome John Crumb to GLS&W! Mr. Pierson has agreed to remain as a part-time consultant/advisor to Mr. Crumb and the Authority Board through 2018, and an Open House for Pierson is planned for Wednesday afternoon, August 22nd at the Authority offices at 7722 N 37th Street to commemorate his retirement and long service to the Authority and the community.

From the Treasurer

I am sad to report that Gene McKay is no longer Deputy Treasurer at Ross Township. Gene's responsibilities at Western Michigan University have increased so he wants to devote more time at the university. Gene was a wonderful asset to the township and will be missed. Great job Gene and best of luck with your new duties at WMU!

Syndee Genung
Treasurer

Meeting Dates



TOWNSHIP BOARD

7pm

- April 10th
- May 8th
- June 12th
- July 10th
- August 14th
- September 11th
- October 9th

PLANNING COMMISSION

7pm

- April 23rd
- May 21st
- June 25th
- July 23rd
- August 27th
- September 24th
- October 22nd

ZBA

5:30pm

the first Wednesday of the month
as necessary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 1 Park Opens 9am-dusk
- May 20 Kids ROAR Race (YMCA)
- July 1 Summer Taxes Mailed
- Aug. 4 Shermanator Triathlon (YMCA)
- Aug. 18 Car Show (Downtown Augusta Village)
- Sept. 14 Summer Taxes Due
- Sept. 30 Park Closes
- Oct. 27 Haunted House (Ross Township Fire Station)
- Dec. 1 2017 Winter Taxes Mailed

AUGUSTA MCKAY DOOLE LIBRARY HOURS:

- Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm
- Wednesday 10am-7pm
- Thursday & Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-2pm
- Closed on Sunday
- (269) 731-4030

Ross Township Wide Special Assessment Investing in our Infrastructure Today for Tomorrow

In 2017, the Ross Township Board worked on a public process to potentially provide for further investment in local road improvements. In the State of Michigan, Road Commissions have jurisdiction over the majority of roads in counties which includes Townships. Townships in the State of Michigan have no obligation to expend funds on roads. However, Road Commissions are limited on the funds they are allowed to spend on local roads. After public outreach, public town hall meetings, public hearings and surveys we heard the public support of infrastructure improvements.

In partnership with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) we built a plan to reflect current road conditions and the plan for investment over a 3-year period using the principles of asset management. We know the public is trusting us with public funds to improve the vital road network every day. Maps, plans and presentations assisted in answering many questions on this vital investment. With the Ross Township passage of a Township Wide Special Assessment under Public Act 188 of 1954, as amended, by a unanimous board vote, we will continue to work together in investing an estimated \$5.5 million to bring our critical infrastructure into good condition.

The plan is located on the Ross Township web site (www.ross-township.us) and lists every project, estimated time frame and cost. The plan is also available at the Ross Township office. Projects are prioritized using the RCKC's asset management plan. This "plan" does not always put the "worst roads first". The plan incorporates implementing maintenance to prevent roads from becoming "poor" and requiring total reconstruction (\$300,000) per mile. Once this investment is made, the local roads will be funded/maintained with project savings, Township general funds, and RCKC local road participation match funds in the future.

As the 2018 construction season begins with construction and preventive maintenance projects, additional town hall meetings are being planned in Ross Township. We want to share the process going forward so township residents can stay informed and can have questions answered.

Thank you for trusting us as your local Township officials and the RCKC as your local road professionals.

We look forward to working together.

Ross-Augusta Fire Dept.

On Call 24 hrs. / day

EMERGENCY -911

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept.

269-383-8821

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Register of Deeds:
269-383-8970

Treasurer:
269-384-8124

Road Commission:
269-381-3170

Household Hazardous
Waste: 269-373-5211

Associated Government Services

8721 Gull Rd. Suite B,
Richland MI 49083

269-629-0600

Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon

1:30pm - 4:30pm



Gull Lake
Sewer & Water:
269-731-4595

Positions Available!

Ross Township has four positions available due to elected officials stepping down in the past year. Appointees have filled these positions and are currently doing these jobs. The positions available are: Township Supervisor, Township Clerk and two Township Trustee Board positions. If you are interested in running for these positions, you must have the appropriate paperwork filed by 4pm on April 24, 2018. Contact the Township Clerk or Tim Snow, Kalamazoo County Clerk for forms required to be put on the ballot.

Now Hiring Park Attendants for 2018

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Must be at least 16 years of age. Fifteen years of age with a work permit. Must have reliable transportation.

Contact Ross Township to apply. 12086 M-89, Richland MI 49083 or www.ross-township.us/employment