

# Lee Crossings



Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan

Spring 2011





### A HOLIDAY MIRACLE

1, 2, 4, 6, 14, 210, 600, 700, 1000, 1200

Looks like the Mega Million Lottery winning numbers but it's not. It's worth even more. This past December 11<sup>th</sup> **one** community (Lee Township) came together to celebrate the joy of Christmas and friendship and giving during the Community Holiday Social held at Pullman Elementary School. **Two** lucky people won a flat screen TV and a tool set and the Terry Laraway Memorial Fund for kids summer sports program raised \$1000.00. Four other lucky people won gift baskets filled with a wide variety of great things and gift certificates for food, gas, groceries, auto services, flowers, haircuts and spa treatments donated by 14 local businesses. All 6 grades at Pullman Elementary School (K-5) participated in a tree decorating contest (congratulations 4th grade for winning the ice cream party).

Many of you are aware that Love, INC opened an office here in Pullman about one year ago. This past holiday they, along with the help of many of their church resource, were able to sponsor 210 Pullman families, providing holiday gifts and food. What a blessing. The local VFW assisted Santa in giving away over 700 gifts on December 11<sup>th</sup> and helped make it possible for 600 cookies to be decorated that evening by the children present. The many volunteers, with the assistance of the Pullman

Elementary School custodial and kitchen staff fed about **1000** people and thanks to the support of Pullman Elementary over **1200** people truly celebrated the joy of the season under one roof and as one community.

These numbers are staggering yet it's only a portion of the tremendous things that came together that evening. Families enjoyed the music program led by Holly Grover, had a chance to pet a live reindeer, had their picture taken with Santa, participated in the tree lighting and even sang carols with the live manger scene at Fresh Start Gospel Church while enjoying a fabulous sweets table. And did I mention it was raining the whole night? That didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirit.

Many thanks go out to all those who had a hand in making this event such a success. There are far too many people to thank personally (and many unsung heroes who stepped in to help) but it is suffice as to say it was truly a community project from beginning to end. Special thanks needs to go out the representatives from the VFW, Love, INC, People Helping People, Pullman Elementary School, and Lee Township who spent months planning this event. Also local businesses who generously continue to give back to the community—Nolan's Party Store, Larson's Hardware, The Pullman Tavern, Preferred Market, Pizza Plus, Image Designer, Rosewood Floral & Gifts, Studio 109, Northwoods Cafe, Al's Gas Station, Walker Tire, Sam's Auto, Bellita's Market and Karam's Food Mart. Last but certainly not least thanks to those outside of Lee Township who saw a need and filled that need with tremendous grace and generosity, especially Ridge Point Community Church of Holland, Central Wesleyan Church of Holland, Douglas Community Church, Douglas Christian Neighbors and Herman Miller.

We can only hope that this feeling of generosity and giving and sense of community continues throughout





The Township recognized the dedication and service **Officer Mark Lytle** has given to Lee Township for the past three years and presented him with a certificate of appreciation at the January 10th regular Township Board Meeting.



The Lee Township Board welcomed **Officer Ross Mysliwiec** to his new position as a Lee Township Officer effective January 5<sup>th</sup>. Officer Ross has served with the Allegan County Sherriff's department for the past 4 years and previously worked in law enforcement in Owasso, MI. Officer Ross is married and has a 6 month old daughter. He noted that he was appointed to his position as the Sherriff's office believed this would be a good fit. He has already met many residents and looks forward to serving in our community.

#### **OUR TOWNSHIP SERVICES AT WORK:**

In 2010—

The Lee Township volunteer fire department responded to 112 fire calls.

The Lee Township First Responders responded to 299 calls for assistance.

The Lee Township Police officers responded to ## requests for assistance.

#### **Memorial Fund Paying Off**

Last fall the Pullman Cardinals soccer team won the championship in a final 12-1 match played on Halloween weekend. This team was made possible by the funds raised through the Terry Laraway Memorial Fund. Soccer is played in the fall and spring. Students interested in playing sports should have their parent contact Pullman Elementary School or see Doug Bale at Pizza Plus. Congratulations to the players and coaches (pictured below).



Back row: Coach Jose Sustaita, Miguel Garcia, Alex Sustaita, Rafael Sifuentes, Noah Perez, Coach Polo Isidoro; Front row: Diego Garcia, David Garcia, Ezequiel Isidoro, Gabriel Perez, and Miguel Marin. Not pictured: Nicolas Amos).

This past winter 25 girls and about 35 boys participated in the basketball program and all received free jerseys provided by the memorial fund. Little League signups will begin this spring for all interested students.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Terry Laraway Memorial Ride will take place Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. There will also be another community raffle to support the athletic program. Contact Doug Bale at Pizza Plus (236-5590) for raffle tickets (to be raffled: television, riding lawn mower,

chain saw, and more).

Sure sign of Spring-Volunteers recently hung new welcome banners purchased by the Township.



#### **Pullman Pride Scholarship Recipients**



Nine years ago, Lee Township started Pullman Pride to celebrate our community and bring people out for a day of fun. From this day, an account has been set up for Pullman Pride/Lee Township Scholarships to be awarded to high school graduating seniors who live in Lee Township for continuing education. At least two \$500.00 scholarships are awarded each year.

2010 Pullman Pride Scholarship winners Joe Sapp and Emily Rawson (pictured above) attended the January 10<sup>th</sup> Lee Township Board Meeting to receive their \$500 scholarship. Joe is in his second semester at Lakeland College and Emily is in her second semester at Lake Michigan College. Congratulations again to you

#### The criteria are:

- 1. Must be a graduating high school senior.
- 2. Must be a resident of Lee Township.
- 3. Please include a photo of yourself and a brief statement about your educational goals. Applicant must also complete an essay of at least 500 word that addresses: How has living in Lee Township impacted your life to date and how do you plan to make a lasting impact on your community?
- 4. Deadline for entries is April 15, 2011. Winners will be announced at awards nights or graduation depending on the high school you attend. Recipients will receive their monetary award after successfully completing one semester of college (which needs to be within one year of HS graduation). Proof of completion will need to be provided to the committee to receive your scholarship money.

Scholarship essay entries should be mailed to: Lee Township/Pullman Pride ATTN: Scholarship Committee P.O. Box 280 Pullman, MI 49450

Recipients are invited and encouraged to attend Pullman Pride Day on Saturday July 16, 2011.

Applications are available at participating High School Guidance offices'.

#### **CHURCH NEWS**

**Bravo Christian Reform** - 5587 113th Ave. (113th & 56th St.), Fennville, Pastor Peter DeHaan, 269-235-5037 Service times: Sunday 10 am. Open to all. House of Mercy in conjunction with Love INC (emergency food and clothing) Wednesday 12:30 -3 pm; Family Night Worship Wednesday until April 13th, 5:30 to 6:30 pm dinner. Singing and Bible reading 6:30 - 7:00 and Bible study classes 7:00 - 7:30 pm. Sonshine Thrift Store Tues-Sat 10-4. Something for everyone. Donations accepted.

**Fresh Start Gospel Church -** 5581 109th Ave., Pullman, Pastor Jim Blackston, 269-655-6172. Sunday School and Worship Service 2-4 pm; Bible Friendship Group Service, Wed. 7-9 pm. Potluck held second Sunday of every month.

**Horseshoe Community Bible Church -** 4950 104th Ave., Grand Junction, Pastor Don Miller. Service times: Sunday School 10 am; Morning Worship 11 am; Evening Service 6 pm.

**Mt. Calvary MB Church -** 5424 105th, Pullman, Pastor Rev. A.G. Bailey, Service times: Sunday School 10 am; Morning Worship 11 am; Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 5:30 pm.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church - 558 58th St. Pullman, Pastor Steppney Black, 236-5693 or 5722. Service times: Sunday School 9:30 am; Morning Worship 11 am.

**Pullman Bible Church** - 5508 109th, Pullman, Pastor Jeff Stephens, 236-0409. Service times: Sunday School 10 am; Worship Service 11 am; Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 pm.

**Pullman Country Chapel** - 5769 106th Ave, Pullman, 236-9869. Service times: Sunday School 10 am and Worship Service 11 am and 6 pm and Wednesday at 7 pm.

Ray of Light Church - 886 60th St., Pastor Mary Hoots, 236-6966. Service times: Sunday Worship 10 am - noon and 6 - 8 pm; Family Training Wednesday 6:30 pm. Seventh Day Adventist Church - 671 52nd St., 236-5011, Pastor William Richardson 616-644-4153. Worship Services: Sabbath school- Saturday 9:30 am; Divine worship 11 am; Prayer meeting Wednesday 7 pm.

Country Life Natural Foods - Pullman Faith Hall, 686 52<sup>nd</sup> St. / 4-6 pm

Apr. 17 – "Spring-fresh Delights"

Special Feature: "Natural Home Remedies

May 22 – "Eat Smart ~ Shop Smart"

Special Feature: "Natural Home Remedies

⇒EACH CLASS includes food demos, health features, & samples

⇒NO CHARGE for classes; donations are welcome ⇒TO REGISTER call 269-236-8326 or 1-800-456-7694 x326

#### **NEWS & NOTES**

- Lee Township Board Meetings take place the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman and are open to the public.
- Be sure to check out the official Lee Township website for additional information at www.leetwp.org.
- Anyone with information for the newsletter can call the Township office at 236-6485 or email to leetwp@i2k.com or send to P.O. Box 427 Pullman, MI 49450.
- Pullman Branch Library is open Monday- Friday, 3 6 pm and Saturday, 10-12 pm. Fennville District Library now offers free library cards to Lee Township residents.
   Pullman Branch Library has started a book club. Contact Debbie Laraway at 236-5590.
- Transfer Station hours (year round) are 9 am 3 pm Saturday and Sunday only (no Wednesday hours).

#### Cemetery

Reminder: grave sites must be kept within the rules that are posted in the cemetery or available in print at the township office. Spring clean-up will take place on April 21st and 22nd (rain dates -April 24th and 25th).

#### **General Township Information**

Lee Township borders are 60th Street, 48th Street, Baseline Road and 112th Avenue, encompassing 23,040 acres, and the 2000 Census reported a population of 4,114. Lee Township is home to Pullman Elementary School; Lower Scott Lake (township park and beach, public boat access); Upper Scott Lake (public boat access); Osterhout Lake (public beach and boat access); Lester Lake, Clear Lake; Springbrook Lake; and Middle Branch of the Black River. Lee Township Cemetery is located at 53rd and 105th Avenue.

## Township Board Members &

**Department Staff** 

Township Office 236-6485

Steve Miller, Supervisor 214-6276 Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk 236-5129 Jessie Lowery, Treasurer 434-6614

Steppney (Steve) Black, Trustee 236-5693

Bruce Ferguson, Trustee 434-6507

Doug Brousseu, Assessor 699-7619

Paul Shamblin, Building Inspector 628-5255

Nelvin DeWeerd, Fire Chief 236-5492

Ted Chamberlain, Asst. Fire Chief 236-5988

Albert Rawson, First Responders 434-6477

Mark Lytle and Ray Ratamal, Twp Deputies 673-0500

Lee Township Transfer Station 236-6485

The Lee Township Board welcomes all comments and suggestions either by mail, e-mail, fax or left at the office.

**Township Ordinances** (copies are available at the township office

or can be viewed at the official Lee Township website)

#2003 Disorderly Conduct

#2009 Motor Vehicle Code

#2011 Animal Control

#2012 Anti-noise & Public Nuisance

#2013 Trash & Leaf Burning

#2016 Curfew

#2017 Plumbing Code

#2020 Cemetery - replaced with #2029

#2021 Dangerous Building

#2022 Litter

#2023 Vehicle Storage & Repair

#2024 Salvage Yard

#2025 Blight Elimination

#2026 Single Family Residences

#2027 Motor Vehicle

#2028 State Construction Code

#2029 Cemetery

#### LEE TOWNSHIP TREASURER NEWS

All unpaid taxes are now delinquent and should be paid to the Allegan County Treasurer 673-0260 or www.allegancounty.org.

**Board of Review Dates**: March 15th, 9 am-12 pm and 1 -4 pm. March 17th, 1 - 4 pm, 6 - 9 pm.

Annual Budget Meeting and Meeting of the Electors-Saturday March 26, 2011 at 10:00 am. The meeting of electors is a time for any and all residents to come ask questions and discuss concerns related to the Township business.

#### **Bloomingdale School Important Dates**

March 14 - Spring Pictures PS, K, 1 & 2

March 15 - Spring Pictures PS, 3, 4 & 5

March 18 - Blood Drive @ 1:00

March 18 - PTO Read In @ 5:00 - 7:00

March 27 - Art Show @ South Haven Center for the Arts

March 28 - PTO Meeting @ 3:30

March 30 & 31 - PT Conferences

April 4 to 8 - Spring Break (school closed)

April 21 - Kindergarten Round Up

April 22 - Good Friday - Half day for students

April 25 - PTO Meeting @ 3:30

May 20 - PTO Walk A Thon

May 23 - PTO Meeting @ 3:30

June 7 - PTO Family Fun Day @ 4:30 -7:00

June 8 - Last Day for Students 1/2 day

#### UPDATE ON THE NEW FIRE STATION

The Lee Township Board voted unanimously at the January 10<sup>th</sup> regular Township Board Meeting to move forward with the plan to build just a new Fire Station on the property at 109<sup>th</sup> and Beech St. Approximately \$15,000 additional funds will be spent on drawing up new plans for the site as the original plans included the addition of a new Township Hall. Additional paperwork needs to be completed for the USDA and then the project should go out to bid with the hope of a ground breaking late spring.

#### IMPORTANT CHANGE

Fire Chief DeWeerd would like everyone to know that a new law effective April 1, 2011 makes burning household refuse in burn barrels illegal per the DNR. Residents may still burn brush and leaves with a burn permit.

#### Treat your family to breakfast

Lee Township Fire Department is holding Pancake Breakfast at Pullman Elementary School on the following Saturdays from 8-11am: March 19, April 16, and May 21.

#### 2011 Clean Team Dates:

Volunteers are asked to meet at the start time at the Township office.

May 14, 10:00 a.m. June 11, 9 a.m. July 9, 9 a.m. August 13, 9 a.m. September 10, 10:00 a.m. October 8, 10 a.m.

Please note this is a committee with great intentions but without helping hands cannot continue to actively pick up roadside trash during the spring/summer/fall to help keep our community looking good. The commitment is just 2 hours once a month and you don't have to commit to every month. If you have a teen that needs to do community service this is the perfect opportunity. All we ask is that a parent or grandparent participate with their child (including bringing them and picking them up and supervising them). You can reach Donna or Gene at 236-5121 from 9am-6pm or email at wordspicturres@yahoo.com.

#### DID YOU KNOW....

Ambu-Care is a family protection plan offered by American Medical Response (AMR), west Michigan's leader in emergency care and transportation. For just \$40 a year (from April 30 to April 30) Ambu-Care members pay no co-pays and AMR accepts what your insurance company pays as payment in full. This is coverage for everyone in your household for one flat rate of \$40. If you are interested in becoming a member you can call AMR's customer service toll free at 1-800-560-9318. Lee Township also has this information and application form on our website at leetwp.org.

The VFW sponsored **Memorial Day Parade is Monday May 30, 2011** and will start at 2:30 p.m. as usual with the ceremony at the Cemetery following the parade.

#### Pullman Pride Day Saturday July 16th

The annual Lee Township Pullman Pride Day is set for the third Saturday in July (July 16<sup>th</sup>). Rides, activities, games, vendors and food are available all day for Lee Township residents and their neighbors to come out and enjoy (rain or shine). This event not only raises money for college scholarships but gives our residents an opportunity to come out and celebrate the pride we have for our community. Anyone interested in joining this worthwhile committee, has a new idea or suggestion, or is a vendor, crafter, has a food booth, or is in a band and would like to participate please contact Pam Rawson at 269-434-6477 or Hope Curley at 269-236-5672. This is a BIG day that requires BIG help!

First planning meeting will be Monday, March 21st at 6:00 P.M. in the Township Hall.



The ever popular cake walk will return for this year's Pullman Pride celebration

# FEATURED ARTICLE...... A Community Mourns the Loss of a Dream



I couldn't remember how long Nolan's Party Store on 109th had been there. It seemed like forever. And then on Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> (what has come to be known as the Blizzard of 2011) that all changed as 5 fire departments responded to a call from a passerby that saw smoke and flames coming from the building. Reflecting back on that night Pat Nolan just kept reiterating her profound appreciation to all those firefighters who came out in that awful weather to try to save her business, their dream. "Their dream" that is Tom and Pat Nolan. When I ask Pat how long she and Tom were married she responded fondly "forever and a day." Tom was born and raised in Chicago and then moved to the Fennville area. Pat grew up in Fennville. She left for a bit and attended Bay City Central and then came back to the area. They met while both working at Chase Manufacturing, were married in 1967 and had 5 children between them (a second marriage for both). Pat describes Tom as a "jack of all trades" and she herself has proven to be quite resourceful. But in 2003 they decided to open their own business. The original building that was Nolan's Party Store was originally the Old Family Farm Market. The building sat vacant for several years and once Tom and Pat were able to purchase it they began refurbishing it from the ground up. About 4 years ago they added on to the back of the store in the hopes of expanding it into a deli area (which opened last April). At the same time they were growing their community business Tom was actively involved in the local VFW and served as Post Commander from 2008-2010 when Tom suddenly passed away. Pat and Tom have been more than business owners, they have been active community members who truly found ways to help those who needed a helping hand, from extending store credit for some short on cash, to helping out with the VFW Christmas Party and Community Holiday Social to providing the community with an over the top local fireworks display every July 4<sup>th</sup> since 2004. Even the two pet Alpaca's kept next to the store were there for the children to see, feed and enjoy. Pat even began talking to some of her vendors and collecting donations for a program she wanted to launch where local businesses came together to "adopt a family in need." Though much of her "things" were destroyed in the fire, Pat continues to talk about ways she would like to help those less fortunate within the Pullman community. She also reflects that one of the greatest losses she feels is that of her faithful customers over the past 7 years and expresses her true appreciation for all those who have been there for her since Tom's passing and now with the loss of the business, "their dream."

With any significant loss, it will take some time for Pat to sort out what comes next for the Nolan family. In the meantime she appreciates all the support that has been given to her and her family. Pat, your community truly appreciates all you have done for us.

#### Are You Ready for a Tornado?

Here are tips provided by the American Red Cross for what you can do to prepare for such an emergency. \*Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or a center hallway, bathroom or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.

\*Stay tuned for storm information on your local radio or TV station.

\*A tornado **WATCH** means a tornado is possible in your area. When a tornado WATCH is issued be alert to changing weather conditions such as blowing debris or the sound similar to that of a freight train.

\*A tornado **WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately. If you are inside go to your designated emergency spot (described above). If you are outside and cannot get inside lie flat in a ditch or low lying area. If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).

\*After the tornado passes watch out for fallen power lines.

\*Every household should assemble a Disaster Supplies

#### Kit containing:

first aid kit,

canned food and a can opener,

several gallons of water,

blankets or sleeping bags,

battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries, special items for infants, elderly or the disabled, and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.

## Lee Township Regular Board Meeting Synopsis of Minutes

#### September 13, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting

Motions were made to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting dated Aug 9th, Special Meeting of August 31st and to receive the Treasurers' report as presented.

A motion was approved to purchase 4 new personalized Welcome banners and hardware not to exceed \$400.00.

A motion was approved to authorize the fire department to spend up to \$700.00 for fire prevention materials for school programs.

A motion was approved to pay Ron Meyer Construction in the amount of \$13,333.55 for the work done on  $102^{nd}$  Avenue and will be reimbursed by the State.

A motion was approved to approve the lot line adjustment for Stoike at 5090 Lake Drive.

A motion was approved to authorize the Clerk to publish the Cemetery clean-up dates for October 1<sup>st</sup>.

A motion was approved to pay the weed control invoice for the township's portion of the Osterhout Lake swimming beach.

#### October 11, 2010 - Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motions were made to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting dated September 10th, Special Meeting dated October 5th and receive the Treasurers' report as presented.

A motion was approved to authorize the Fire Department to spend up to \$6,000.00 for the required physicals for the Lee Township Fire fighters.

A motion was approved to retain the services of Attorney Jonathon Blair for the use of ordinances and minor Township issues.

A motion was approved to accept the medication on the road repair contract in the amount of \$41,675.58.

A motion was approved to pay the partial payment of \$158,217.57 to be submitted to the State for payment.

A motion was approved to pay the bills as presented with the addition of \$1200.00 for the graveling of the Cemetery drive.

A motion was approved to have the damages reviewed and more gravel to be replaced by P. Knapp Excavating not to exceed \$500.00.

#### November 8, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting

Motions were made to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting dated October 11th and to receive the Treasurers' report as presented.

A motion was approved to authorize the First Responders to purchase the new unit from Michigan First Response in the amount of \$98,000.00 and provide the down payment check upon receipt of a signed contract in the amount of \$60,419.00 and \$748.00 to C-Com for the radio upgrade.

A motion was approved to authorize the Clerk to publish a request for new volunteer firemen.

A motion was approved to authorize the Supervisor to spend up to \$1000.00 for a new computer that will handle the BS&A Assessing program as well as the needs of the Supervisor.

A motion was approved to accept the draft of the Township news flyers to be placed in the December tax bills.

A motion was approved to authorize the Clerk to pay the bills as presented with the addition of the Code Enforcement check.

A motion was approved to authorize the Clerk to pay election staff for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election in the amount of \$1,504.80.

#### December 13, 2010 - Regular Board Meeting

Motions were made to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting dated November 8th and to receive the Treasurers' report as presented.

A motion was approved to authorize the Fire Department to spend up to \$1,200.00 to purchase the necessary ice suit, helmet, clamps and CO2 detector as presented.

A motion was approved to accept the appointments for Ed Brock, Sally Lacy and Les Rawson to the Board of Review and Neva Tice and Ray Russell as alternates pending contact from Neva Tice.

A motion was approved to adopt the federal Poverty Exemption as presented.

A motion was approved for the land split /lot line adjustment for Sumner Blueberries as presented and approved by the Assessor and Building Inspector.

A motion was approved for the land division requested by H. Hobbs as presented and approved by the Assessor and Building Inspector.

A motion was approved to authorize the Clerk to pay the bills as presented.

A complete copy of the minutes can be obtained on <u>www.leetwp.org</u> or at the Township office.

#### SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Al's Gas and Shop Back Door Video Baylor Buddy Johns Bellita's Market Bell's Grocery Bodtke Farms

Cericola's Banquet and Hall Rental

**Clemons Blueberries** 

**Country Life Natural Foods & Store** 

**Dave's Tree Service** 

**Dream House Development** 

**H & F Electronics** 

**Hidden Treasure Daycare** 

**InterCare Community Health Network** 

Image Designer LaTienda Store

Laraway & Son Movers Larson's Hardware

**Maynard's Customized Concrete** 

Mrs. Earl's Greenhouse Mystic View Apartments Nolan's Party Store

Northwoods Café

Pat Knapp's Excavating

Pizza Plus

**Preferred Market** 

Pullman Tavern (PT109) Rawson Brothers Auto Parts Rosewood Floral & Gift Shop

Sam's Auto

Shear Fantasy Beauty Shop Simpsarosa Riding Stables Studio 109- Forever Tan

T & J Trucking Terry's Auto Sales Warner Camp

**West Pullman Grocery** 

VFW Post 6134