

Lee Crossings



Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan

Summer 2008

Memorial Day

After a long winter, this Memorial Day brought unseasonably nice weather, perfect for the annual parade and cemetery service on Monday May 26th. The 80 degree day drew a terrific crowd out to watch the parade. Special thanks to our local VFW for organizing the annual event and to all those who participated in the parade and memorial service.



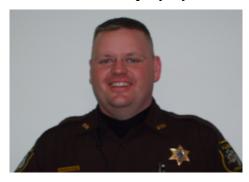




PULLMAN PRIDE 2008

Once again, Lee Township will be celebrating as a community and raising money for college scholarships at the annual Pullman Pride Day July 19th from 9:00am-Saturday **5:00pm**. Community members and visitors alike will spend a day together enjoying games, rides, bingo, a craft fair, pony rides, good food and good music. Some of the highlights each year are the Pancake breakfast, children's art show, horseshoe tournament, silent auction and the classic car All activities are held at the Pullman show! Elementary building/parking lot/ball field/or township hall.

Welcome Deputy Lytle



Lee Township would like to welcome Deputy Mark Lytle to our area. Deputy Lytle has been with Allegan County Sheriffs department for 2 years and requested to be assigned to Lee Township when the position opened up. Deputy Lytle was born and raised in Bay City Michigan and earned a Bachelor's degree from Ferris State University. He has been married for 10 years and has two young girls. Deputy Lytle spent time with the Wayne County Sheriff's department and the past 9 years for Saugatuck Police Department where he served as their DARE officer.

We are delighted he is working with Deputy Greene protecting the citizens of Lee Township.



Pullman Pride - Winning Essays

Rachel Larabel-

Hello my name is **Rachel Larabel** and I am proud to be a resident of Pullman because I have been living here my entire life. Since preschool, I have been in the Bloomingdale public schools. For kindergarten through 6th grade I attended Pullman Elementary. I have been in school with the same kids that were in my kindergarten class and I think that is really cool. Not too many people can say that they graduated with the same kids they went through elementary school with. When I was in kindergarten my brother, sister, parents and I were in a car accident. My mom passed away in this accident. My sister was 5 and my brother was only 5 months old. We were all so young and the community was there to help us through this very tough situation. The teachers and staff were very supportive when we went back to school. The support system of this community is a great one no matter who the person or situation. To be able to say that is truly remarkable and amazing. Things were really rough for us after the accident with my dad having 5 crushed vertebrae and had to have a metal cage put in his back. He was not able to work for some time after that and everyone in the community was very helpful with whatever needed to be done. Pullman is a great place to live no matter what kind of person you are.

Pullman is a small community where everyone knows That is a quality that I think every small community should possess. I can go into the local grocery store and know every single person in that store. People that live in Pullman usually are not proud to be in Pullman but I can say that I truly like it here. Pullman is where all my friends live. Pullman is upgrading its community a little at a time, and that is a quality that only successful communities have. Pullman Elementary has been remodeled and it looks great and that shows it is going to be around for a long time to come. I also heard that there is a plan to put a park in where the old Pullman Industries building is. I think that is a really good idea and I would even take my nephew down to use it. Pullman is small and many outsiders do not even know where it is but I will never forget it if I ever move away. Generations of families have been living in Pullman since the town was established. Some of these families include the Rawsons, Laraways and Latchaws. Pullman has everything that a small community needs to survive. There is a school, three grocery stores, two gas stations, a post office and many other establishments. I would say that Pullman is doing pretty well for itself considering the condition of Michigan's economy.

After graduating in May 2008, I plan to further my education by attending Ferris State University in the Fall. I have plans to live on campus. My career plan so far is to become a reading teacher for kindergarten students. I have always loved reading since I learned how to read. I read a lot in my spare time. When I was in 6th grade, my class got to go and read to the younger classes and the students would get to ask us questions about the book. We would get to ask the students questions about the book too and it was a lot of fun. We got to do the same thing in middle school and it has helped me to make up my mind about my career goal. This will be an excellent career for me to live my life doing when I am done with school. Sincerely,

Rachel Larabel

Megan Larson -

Have you ever watched those movies where all your neighbors are your friends and everyone in town gets along and you know everyone, and most everyone is willing to help you and you're willing to help them? Well, my name is **Megan Larson** and I'm going to talk to you about how I have Pullman Pride and why I think Pullman is such a good community.

Why do I think Pullman is such a good community? Well first, I have lived in Pullman my whole life. I even went to school in Pullman. This was really good because the teachers there are so nice and they really want you to succeed. My family is well known in Pullman. My great grandparents grew up there and my dad. They owned some stores, which I know the community loved. I love the community because you always feel safe and you don't really have to worry about anything. Even though I didn't grow up in a rather large community, I would rather live in a smaller community with people that are nice and you can get to know almost everyone.

If I were to be awarded this scholarship of \$500, I would use it to go to Kalamazoo Valley Community College to take my core classes then switch over to Western Michigan to take a class in digital media, as it is my dream to become a video director. I have great potential in making movies. I have been making videos since I was little and would love to take this to the next level. This is a great opportunity, because I don't have a lot of money and this would really help me get closer to something I

would like to have for my career. I know becoming a video director will be hard but I'm willing to push myself to do something that I feel really strong about. I know when I leave to fulfill my dream, leaving this area will be the thing I miss most. I will miss the good times that I have had here, like the Memorial Day Parade and Pullman Pride Day. They were always fun to watch and even fun to be in. Every year I would go out with the band and play for the people that would come out to watch the parade. At Pullman Pride Day that was a time to show your kid side. They would have everything from face painting to big air toys. Or if you're someone that loves cars and raffles, they even had that. This is something that has had a big impact on my life and I'll never forget it. Since I have now shared why I am proud to be a Pullman resident I hope that you can take this you're your consideration and award me this scholarship. Sincerely,

Megan Larson

CLEAN TEAM UPDATE

The Clean Team has begun their second season of cleaning up the roadside of Lee Township. The team noticed a marked improvement in the overall cleanliness of the main roads of 109th Avenue and 56th Street. A grateful thanks goes out to all who live in and travel through our beautiful to township, especially those who place their refuse in the appropriate place.

We continue to need additional help with the monthly pick up activity. This is an activity anyone can assist with no matter your age or ability. High school students--here is a chance to pick up your volunteer hours needed for graduation!

We provide the plastic bags, pick up sticks and rubber gloves and you provide about 2 hours of labor on the day of the pick up . If you are unable to pick up on the planned date with the group, you may also pick up trash along the roadside near your home and take to the recycle station - free of charge.

Upcoming Dates for Cleanup Saturday, July 20, 9 - 11 am. Saturday, August 9, 9 - 11 am. Saturday, September 20, 10 am - 12 pm.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS-

During the warm weather, yard clean-up is a large job. Any burning of leaves requires calling 686-5222 for a burn permit. Any leaf fire must be attended at ALL times and must not smolder. Be courteous to your neighbors. Smoking leaf piles can be dangerous for those with asthma or respiratory conditions. Composting leaves is an excellent alternative to burning. It doesn't only provide a healthy alternative for the environment, it beneficial for the homeowner as well. Information on composting is available at the Township Office.

Featured Church

GETTING TO KNOW.....

I'm <u>Pastor Gary Melson</u>. The Holy Ghost directed me to start a church in Pullman, MI and to keep an open pulpit allowing the Spirit of God to lead our services. We are non-denominational, Christian, bible-believing, Holy Ghost filled group of people who love God and are just looking for a closer relationship with the Lord. We are hoping our family here will grow and we invite you to come and be a part of what God is doing.

If you've been longing for a more intimate relationship with the Lord; if you've been wondering if there are people on the earth who really care; if you've been longing for peace and uncertain how to obtain it; or it you have questions but haven't found satisfying answers, then we invite you to come and see if the Lord will meet you in a special way at the Church in Pullman located at 861 56th Street on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday morning at 10 am. Bring your song; your testimony; your message; your bible; your praise.... We would be so happy to see you and hear what the Lord has been dealing with you about. For more information, please call me at 269-277-8483.

CHURCH NEWS

Bravo Christian Reform - 1317 56th St, Fennville, Pastor Don Jabaay, 236-5500. Service Times: Sunday 10 am; House of Mercy (emergency food and clothing) Wednesday 12:30 -3 pm; Family Night Worship/free dinner Wednesday 5:30 pm; **Church in Pullman** - 861 56th St., Pastor Gary Melson, 269-277-8483. Service Times: Sunday 10 am and Thursday at 7:30 pm

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church - 558 58th St., Pastor Steppney Black, 236-5693 or 5722. Service Times: Sunday School 9:30 am; Morning Worship 11 am; Bible Class and prayer Service Tuesday 6 pm.

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

Pullman Christ Gospel Church - 915 56th St, (P.O. Box 102), Rev. Fred & Mary Hoyt, 236-6316, 236-5701. Service Times: Sunday School 10 am; Sunday service 11 am and 6 pm; Wednesday night service 7 pm; Friday night service 7 pm.

Pullman Country Chapel - 5769 106th Ave,

Service Times: Sunday School 10 am and Worship Sunday at 11 am - 6 pm and Wednesday at 7 pm; ladies prayer meeting every other Friday at 7 pm; children's program the 2nd Saturday of each month from Noon - 2 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 Mike Szynkowski**, 1-888-222-5605. Service Times: Saturday Bible Study 9:20 am and Worship at 11 am.

NEWS & NOTES

- Lee Township Board meetings take place the Second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall 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
- Transfer Station hours (year round) are 9 am 3 pm Saturday and Sunday only (no Wednesday hours).
- Pullman Branch Library is open Tuesday & Thursday 2
 6 pm and Saturday 10 am Noon.

2008 - 2009 Budget

The Board approved the budget for the fiscal year April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

	Revenue	Expenses
General Fund	\$522,902.00	\$731,564.50
Fire Department	\$253,364.14	\$143,950.00
First Responders	\$ 75,844.31	\$ 52,634.00

General Township Information

Lee Township borders are 60th Street, 48th Street, Baseline Road and 112th Avenue, encompassing 23,040 acres and 2000 reported population 4,114. Lee Township is home to Pullman Elementary school; Lower Scott Lake (township park and beach, public boat access), Upper Scott Lake (public board access), Osterhout Lake (public beach and boat access), Lester Lake Clear Lake and Springbrook Lake, as well as 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

John Schlack, Supervisor 236-0987
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk 236-6446
Jessie Lowery, Treasurer 434-6614
Steppney (Steve) Black, Trustee 236-5693
Donna Christensen, Trustee 236-5734
Doug Brousseu, Assessor 699-7619
Paul Shamblin, Building Inspector 628-5255
Nelvin DeWeerd, Fire Chief 236-5392
Ted Chamberlain, Asst. Fire Chief 236-5988
Albert Rawson, First Responders 434-6477
Mark Lytle and Bill Greene, Twp Deputies 673-0500
Lee Township Transfer Station 236-6485

<u>Township Ordinance</u> (hard copies are available at the township office or 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

#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

Upcoming Elections:

Several candidates have filed to run on the August 5th Primary Election ballot. Candidates for local offices are as follows:

Democratic Party:

Supervisor: Steve Miller, Hoyt Higgs

Clerk: Jacquelyn Ann King

Treasurer: Jessie Lowery and Nancy Kakarian Trustee: Steppney Black, William Ferguson

Precinct Delegate: Lucy Ann Loud

Republican Party:Supervisor: Sally Lacy
Trustee: Victor Rawson

The ballot will also include the proposal for the First Responders renewal millage. You can request the complete language from Lee Township Clerk at

269-236-6485 or 269-236-6446.

Dates to Remember:

Primary - August 5, 2008

General Election - November 4, 2008

Last Day of Registration for the General Election is

September 29, 2008

Lee Township First Responders

The Lee Township First Responders have 4 new Responders who have successfully passed their training and certification making a total of 10 certified/trained responders working to serve the citizens of Lee Township. The First Responders provide immediate care to residents along with the assistance to the AMR Ambulance Service. This eliminates the possible delay in response in an emergency.

FIRE DISTRICT HEARING

The Fire District meeting will be held on July 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm. The meeting is held to discuss the 2009 Millage Rates.

2008 Summer Tax

Tax bills are in the mail. The Treasurer will collect tax at the Township Office on Friday's 9 am - 5 pm the months of July, August and September. Interest penalty will be added to taxes paid after September 15th, Summer Tax 2008 can be paid to Lee Township Treasurer until February 29, 2009.

Summer Deferments may be filed to defer payment of tax on principle residence of persons 62 years of age or older or property that is classified or used as agricultural property until the time that winter taxes are due. Complete a form available through the Treasurer's office or www.leetwp.org to receive the deferral. The form must be filed by September 15, 2008.

The **Board of Review** will convene on July 21, 2008 to correct any mutual mistake of fact or clerical errors on tax notice. Notify the Treasurer or Assessor of any necessary corrections upon receipt of tax bill.

This year all of the county's allocated millage will be collect on the summer 2008 tax bill. The 6 mills State Education Tax (S.E.T.) is collected on the summer bill and the winter bill will no longer reflect these taxes.

TRANSFER STATION

Each Taxpayer will receive one (1) ticket in the summer 2008 Tax bill to be used by Township resident only for a free dump load at their leisure. Additional tickets, for those property owners who have received a blight warning/citation, can be picked up at the Township Office on Fridays or by contacting a Board Member. Tickets received prior to July 2007 will not be honored.

New Transfer Station hours took effect July 1, 2007. Hours are Saturday and Sunday only between the hours of 9 am to 3 pm. Remember recycling (newspaper, shredded paper, cardboard, magazines, clean glass/plastic) is free.

Lee Township Regular Board Meeting Synopsis of Minutes

April 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting-

- -Motion was moved and seconded to have Trustee Christensen conduct the meeting in the Supervisor's absence
- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of 3/10/08 and the Special Meeting 3/24/08.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to receive the Treasurer's report as presented.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the cemetery to spend \$50.00 to replace wreaths.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to accept the General Appropriations Act.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the final budget adjustments.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to publish the Cemetery Clean-up for May 1st.

- -Motion was moved and seconded to publish the request for sealed bids to be presented to the Township Board.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to raise the salaries of the Election workers to \$12.00 for the Chair Person and \$11.00 per hours for Election Inspectors.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize payment of the bills.

May 12, 2008 Regular Board Meeting-

- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2008 with corrections.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to receive the Treasurer's report as presented.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the land division/lot line adjustment as approved by the Assessor for Forster.
- -Motion was moved and seconded by Christensen to grant the Park Manager a vehicle/fuel allowance of \$150.00 per month in addition to his salary of \$750.00 monthly.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to sign the work order for the annual dust control.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize gravel to be delivered and graded for cemetery at the cost of no more than \$1,000 to be completed by Memorial Day.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to use the Community Service workers if necessary for cemetery cleanup.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to accept the bid for mowing by R&N Services from Fennville with the receipt of liability insurance provided.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the language to be prepared by the Attorney for the First Responders to be placed on the August 5th primary.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the payment of the bills including the payment of the Election workers from the May election.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

June 9, 2008 Regular Board Meeting-

- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting held on May 12, 2008 with corrections.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 23, 2008.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to receive the Treasurer's report as presented.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the purchase of a 2004 Troybilt lawn mower for the use of the mowing of township properties.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to distribute one free "dump" ticket in each tax bill with the option of additional tickets being issued with a warning or citation for blight.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the printing of the township flyer to be distributed in the tax bills.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the Supervisor to issue firework permits for T. Nolan and C. McNeal with the proper insurance certificate.
- -Motion was moved and seconded to authorize the payment of the bills.

As the rubble is clearing out in the process of a new park to be erected, let us stop and remember the past and what it meant to Pullman and all of Lee Township.

History of Pullman Industries/Pearl Creamery

By Debbie Laraway Following a Creamery failure in Fennville, and amidst great controversy, the Pearl Creamery was formed in Pearl in 1903. The Creamery was moved to Pullman in 1926 after the Pearl factory burned. The fire was thought to have started from the railroad and Pearl's loss was Pullman's gain.

The Creamery, according to local sources, was a large operation with many routes and an asset to our community until it went bankrupt at the conclusion of WWII. Also according to local sources, there was a large supply of sweetened, condensed milk stockpiled for the war effort, a lawsuit against the Federal Government, some involvement with the House of David and the result was the end of Pearl Creamery.

In 1950 Jim Eshelman, Helson Irey, and Guy Lynman purchased the building at a bankruptcy sale and with help from Jim's brother, Mike, set up a stamping plant supplying automotive parts for the Big 3 Auto Makers. They called their business Pullman Industries. Pullman Industries attracted about 10 big stockholders and became the mainstay of our community.

Many of our firefighters worked at the factory and were able to respond to firecalls almost immediately. Staff went to Pullman School during their lunch breaks to read with and to the students. They paid their taxes, hired local people and are greatly, greatly missed.

During their heyday Pullman Industries build another plant in Bloomingdale, operated 3 shifts in Pullman and, sadly for it's community, attracted the interest of larger businesses wishing to acquire it. Before Noble Industries purchased Pullman Industries in 2006 our little stamping operation had become a global industry.

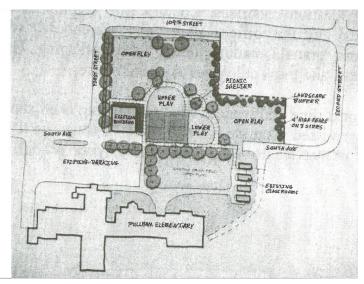
There were pollution issues in the 1990's which may have affected the outcome of Pullman Industries decision to leave Pullman behind.

Pullman Industries and the benefits from having an industrial center in Lee Township are now gone, little more than a pile of rubble. With the current price of gasoline and the closing of the Mushroom Farm there are those of us who mourn it's loss.

Although Pullman Industries is now gone it is still a story of hope. If 3 men could jumpstart our local economy in 1950, provide jobs and a sense of identity to a community perhaps it may happen again.







Superintendent Brett Geier stated that the new park will be done by the time school starts in the fall. It will have an upper and lower play areas, basketball courts, green space for running, soccer, etc. It will also have a picnic pavilion area for families to enjoy the park.

FEATURED ARTICLE.....

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia McNeal

The history of SIMPSON'S LAKEVIEW RESORT started in the early 1950's when Hilmon and Ann Simpson from Chicago bought their first forty acres of land in Lee Township. They renovated the five bedroom Manor House, then converted the garage into a guest house with three separate units for rental. Soon afterwards, they purchased the adjacent eighty acres, across from Lester Lake, and started working their dream which was to create a place for friends and family to enjoy the fresh wholesome county life, away from the hustle bustle of the city. Here the rolling hilltops, bountiful fruit groves, and the 60 acre spring fed Lester Lake rightly explain why they were call the "Vacationers Paradise".

It began with twelve units in the half circle brick building known as "The Acre". The old barn was transformed into a kitchen for meal service by day, and a recreational hall for indoor activities in the evening. Expanding further, they built a full service restaurant affectionately named Ma Brown's Kitchen after Mrs. Simpson's mother. The finest of meals were prepared by some of the best cooks in southwest Michigan, where one could feast as formally or casually as you desired.

By the early seventies, several more buildings were added to the resort. The two story building known as the President's Line, were luxury suites smartly furnished with the extra note of attention to detail. Each window overlooked the beautiful Lester Lake. The dual tennis/basketball court provided more outdoor physical activities along with the swimming, boating, fishing, children's playground, campers hook-up, beach parties, horseback riding, and hay rides.

Background music was everywhere. The modern recreation center named for the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. offered the ultimate in formal or informal gathering. Live Professional Entertainment from Chicago was a regional hit every Saturday night. It quickly became a cultural phenomenon, and the first of its kind in the area. The new office and conference room was added later.

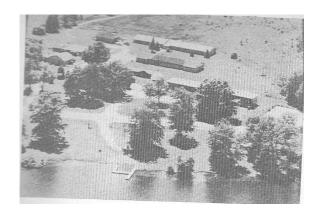
Being a former educator himself, with emphasis on young people and education, "Camp Lake View" was built with twenty seven rooms to house boys and girls in a structured camping program for inner city youth during the summer. This building also served as a A facility for vacationing families-on-a-budget, family reunions, and club outings.

SIMPSON'S RESORT hosted the Pro-Am Rodeo for thirteen years. It was a huge event for the area, where professional cowboys and cowgirls would perform in the arena, and local residents could enter in competition. The parade leading up to the rodeo began in town with a show of local horses and buggies, mounted police, fire trucks,

vintage automobiles, and honoring Mr. Simpson as the Grand Marshal. He was the first African American elected official in Allegan County, serving as a Trustee and Treasurer for Lee Township. His professional, social and political involvement was extensive within the community where he resided.

Lake View Resort would win your heart and you would find the ultimate without extravagance. They pioneered with pride the concept of racial culture and economic well being of guest in true American style. Still African-American owned and operated, the 80 acre parcel of property was sold in 1993.

The legacy of the Simpson family is continued today by the daughter, who owns and operates SIMPSAROSA STABLES INC on the adjacent 40 acres on 55th Street providing horseback riding and trail rides, and pony rides year round.





Note- MR. HILMON SIMPSON was the 1995 recipient of the Allegan County, Black History Month Recognition of Achievement.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS

Al's Citgo **Back Door Video Baylor Buddy Johns Belitas Taco & Grocery Bell's Grocery Bodtke Farms** Cericola's Banquet and Hall Rental **Clemons Blueberries County Life Natural Foods & Store Dream House Development H & F Electronics InterCare Community Health Network Karam Food Mart** Jillian Country Clipn's LaTienda Store **Laraway & Son Movers Maynard's Customized Concrete** Mrs. Earl's Greenhouse **Nolan's Party Store**

Northwoods Café Pat's Excavating Pizza Plus **Preferred Market** Pullman Tavern (PT109) **Rawson's Brothers Auto Parts** Rosewood Floral & Gift Shop **Scoops Ice Cream Parlor Shear Fantasy Beauty Shop** Simpsarosa Riding Stables Studio 109- Forever Tan T & J Trucking **Terry's Auto Sales Thin-Spin Productions Walkers Tire & Lube** Warner Camp