

## **Ligonier Beach Timeline**

### **1925**

July 4, Cono "Nick" Gallo opened Ligonier Beach along Route 30, then touted as the largest swimming pool in Pennsylvania, holding 1.3 million gallons. Tom Gallo remembers taking a car ride with his father on Route 30 before the pool was built. He said he didn't know exactly what his father's plans were, adding that the marshy land along the nearby creek made the beach's construction area look like a swamp. Nick drilled a well and used a spring to feed the pool. Crews built the pool using predominantly hand labor and horsepower. There was a sandy "beach" near the pool, a dancefloor and pavilion.

### **1950s**

A slide, high dive and water wheel were removed. The sandy beach was replaced with grass.

### **Date Unknown**

A restaurant and bar were added to supplement pool pass sales.

### **1998**

Tom Gallo sold the Beach to the Grahams; Gallo said he had mixed feelings about the sale. He said a major part of his decision to sell the beach was based on rising insurance costs. "My father never had insurance. The whole system has changed. Insurance companies pretty much write the rules."

### **2005**

Season passes ranged from \$150-\$425 depending on the number of people in a family.

### **2008**

Raymond Graham sells the Beach to his daughter & son-in-law, Steve & Sherry Kozar.

### **2015**

There was a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration; admission was \$8 for adults and \$5 for ages 7 and younger, with children younger than 1 admitted free.

### **2016**

October 16, a minor set the bathhouse and snack bar on fire.

### **2018**

May 28, Memorial Day the pool does not open, a 1 in 100-year flood destroyed the filter pumps and furnace.

June 2, a "Going Out of Business Sale" sign was posted. "The cost to open it up would be more than what it was worth," Graham said.

June 20, a 1 in 500-year event flood hits the area, the entire parcel is covered by several feet of water and mud.

### **2019**

April 9, Township Manager approaches the Board at their public meeting with the idea of purchasing the property, "on the merits of protecting and preserving recreational attributes for the community." The township is concerned about blight and decreasing property values for the surrounding area. There are additional concerns with approximately 70% of the property

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being in the floodplain and 30% of it being in the floodway and the loss of its “non-conforming use” status (i.e. additional costs to comply with FEMA regulations).

June, a docudrama about the Titanic was filmed in the pool. The pool was allegedly filled with water from the nearby creek. According to MAWC it would cost \$7,800 to fill the pool with municipality water.

November 25, The Township acquires the property with a DNCR grant and private donation.

### **2020**

The Township begins the park’s planning process. A Ligonier Beach Park planning committee was appointed and tasked with making three recommendations to the Township Supervisors for the property’s development. Public input is being sought and the township announced it is open to a public-private partnership, should any group/organization come forward with a viable business plan.

The buildings were inspected and samples from the pump house and the filter building were found to have both mold and asbestos. A complete demo and rebuild will likely be more cost effective than remediation.

### **Sources**

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