



Winter 2015 Newsletter

Running with John...John Nash, Township Supervisor

New SLT Fire Station Will be LEED Silver

The new Spring Lake Fire Station which will be built at the corner of Fruitport Rd. and M104 will be built at least to the LEED Silver Standard. That means the building will be built to very high energy standards. This will be the first new LEED building built along the West Michigan lakeshore. This station will be a very attractive brick building which will be used for the next 50 years or more. Our Township Board wanted to be sure this building was as energy efficient as possible. This includes heating, air conditioning, lighting, water, insulation and solar panels on the roof over the truck bays to provide all the electrical energy needed for the building. This is very exciting and represents forward thinking. We hope to start on the building yet this year and to have it completed within a year. It is also very noteworthy that we are pretty sure there will have to be no tax increases to pay for this building.



Fruitport Road Paving

I have to say I was very impressed with how efficient the road construction crews were when it came to keeping the traffic interruptions as minimal as possible. The road looks good. As for the manholes which are too low and the rough surface on the north side lanes near Fruitport, neither of these things are very impressive. The Ottawa County Road Commission has assured me repeatedly that the contractor will not receive their full payment until these problems are resolved. I trust that the ORCR will follow through on this statement.

The Retirements of Ron Brondyke and Paul Brondyke

Ron Brondyke has been a dedicated SLT employee for 36 years. He is our Department of Public Works Director. Ron's level of service commitment will be hard for us to ever to match in the future. I am sure we will miss all that Ron does for SLT. Paul Brondyke is our long time Parks and Bike Path Director. Paul has worked for SLT for 31 years. He is the guy who coordinates keeping our bike path in excellent condition year round and has been the key person who has made Rycenga Park the beautiful park it is today. Paul is a very loyal employee and will be hard to replace.

Spring Lake Township is a GREAT Place to Live

We have the lowest municipal taxes in the area, the lowest combined water and sewer rates, good water and sewer infrastructure, wonderful bike paths and very nice parks, a beautiful cemetery, excellent annual audits, and we try hard to keep our roads in good shape. To help control costs, we now share a municipal building with the Village. There are 1240 townships in Michigan—only two have achieved the Michigan Township Association's Township of Excellence award level—Spring Lake Township was the first to earn that award.

News from the Clerk



It will be a full election year in 2016. There are four elections, beginning with the Presidential Primary on March 8, the May 3 school election (Grand Haven

Schools only), August 2 Primary and the November 8 Presidential election.

Several precincts will be located in different polling places beginning with the 2016 elections:

- Precincts 3 and 4 —First Baptist Church, 118 E. Exchange St.
- Precinct 5 — Nortonville Gospel Chapel, 14528 Leonard Rd.
- Precinct 6 — All Shores Wesleyan Church, 15550 Cleveland St.

Voters in these precincts will receive new voter cards in early December noting their new polling place.

H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC, Township Clerk

Absentee ballot applications for voters on the permanent absentee list will be mailed in mid-January for the March 8 election. If you would like an absentee ballot, or would like to be added to the permanent list, call me at 844-2101. For those of you who stop in to get a ballot or drop off a ballot, please remember to come to our new location, 101 S. Buchanan, inside Village Hall.



Assessing News

There seems to be some confusion regarding *Conditional Rescissions*. These forms are for properties that you have claimed a Principal Residence Exemption on, but have not sold before the purchase of another property. In order to qualify for this exemption the property has to be for sale and specific guidelines must be met. This exemption is NOT automatically given.



Please contact our office with any address changes to ensure that you receive your bills and assessment change notices. The address change form may be found on our website.

Heather Singleton, Assessor

Our department is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, by phone and for walk-in traffic. If your concern is complicated, it is recommended that you make an appointment, so that we can address your concerns uninterrupted. Visit our website and you may find the answers to your questions among the links or a form that you may need.

Our direct department number is (616) 844-2108. Our e-mail addresses are as follows: dnorth@springlaketwp.org and hsingleton@springlaketwp.org. Our website: <http://www.springlaketwp.org/Depts/assessing.shtml>

Enjoy the holiday season!



Remember to clean up after your dog. Township ordinance requires that you clean up feces made by your dog. Let's keep the bike paths and streets clean for everyone's use. Thank you for your cooperation!

Deputy Spotlight

Deputy Travis Babcock, Community Policing



Winter is coming! With this comes inclement weather, resulting in poor road conditions and the possibility of a collision. That's where you are going to meet me or one of my co-workers and you may end up with a citation for Violations of Basic Speed Law – Too Fast or Failed to Stop (Unable to Stop) with Assured Clear Distance. If you are cited for Violation of Basic Speed – Too Fast, it isn't necessarily a speeding citation in the traditional sense. This is the wording typically used when you crash into a ditch, mailbox, tree, or a miscellaneous object. If you are cited for Failed to Stop (Unable to Stop) with Assured Clear Distance, you likely crashed into a vehicle you were travelling behind.

So, what does this all mean? Let's explore the Michigan Vehicle Code section this derives from:

257.627(1) A person operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, and width of the highway and of any other condition then existing. A person shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead.

Refer to the above and you will see the words "careful," "prudent" and "reasonable". Although the speed limit is 55mph, should you necessarily be going 55mph? At what point should you exercise being careful, prudent, and reasonable? This is different for each person for various reasons. I and other law enforcement officers look at the totality of the circumstances, including the weather, lighting, road conditions, the condition of your vehicle (bald tires, cracked windshield, etc.), your statements, and the statements of witnesses, as well as numerous other factors. Hopefully, this helps makes sense if you receive a citation after a crash and you were "only" going 30mph in a 55mph zone, or you were going less than 25pmh and your brakes would not stop your car as you approached a stop sign and you struck the car already stopped and waiting.

Let's be safe out there Spring Lake Township. Let us be the examples to everyone else of what a careful, prudent, and reasonable driver is. Slow down and save lives this winter.

Manager's Update

Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager

Township receives a \$764,000 Asset Management Grant

This fall, Spring Lake Township received notice from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that our application for funding for an Asset Management Plan was approved in the amount of \$764,705. These funds require a local match of \$84,967 for a total project cost of \$849,672. It is important to note two things:

- 1) Every grant dollar that we receive back from the State of Michigan (or the US Government) is a dollar that we do not have to ask our local rate payers for.
- 2) If we did not apply for these funds, they would have been allocated to, and spent by, another community.

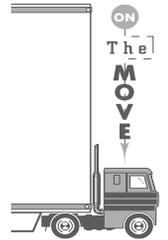
The purpose of this grant funding is to develop an Asset Management Plan for our wastewater collection system. The Asset Management Plan is a very thorough condition assessment. We will hire independent contractors and engineers to look at all of our collection facilities (pipelines, pump stations and equipment), evaluate their condition and report on their findings. One of the biggest benefits of this program is that in order to assess the condition of the pipes in our collection system, the pipes will have to be cleaned and televised. There is tremendous benefit to cleaning all the pipes in the Township. This benefit is the same as it would be for your individual home wastewater pipes (It is good to have them thoroughly cleaned at least once every 10 years). In addition to the cleaning, we will

televising the inside of the pipes. This televising will document the condition of the pipes as well as point out areas that need to be repaired. (Note: be glad that you are not the one who gets to review the films).

The work plan is also to review our rate schedule. This will ensure that the rates that we charge are adequate to support current repair and maintenance needs. It is important to note that our rate study will ensure that our customers are not under-paying or over-paying for sewer service. We are pleased that we continue to have the lowest sewer rates in the extended area. We are working hard to keep rates low AND keep up on the maintenance and investment necessary to have an excellent system.

I know that talking about wastewater pipes, or any buried utilities, is kind of boring. However, it is important for us to keep your system well maintained. This preventative maintenance will save dollars for all of us over the long term.

REMINDER: Our offices have moved to the Village Hall on the southwest corner of M-104 and Buchanan Street. If you use your bank's bill payment service, please make an extra effort to edit the address of Spring Lake Township to 101 S. Buchanan Street.



DPW Update

Ron Brondyke, DPW Director

Water Meters

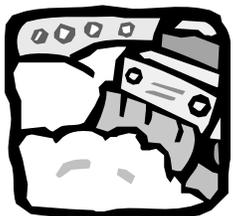
If you are doing remodel work on your home, such as siding or additions, and your exterior water meter reading equipment must be temporarily removed or relocated, please call for assistance. If you or your contractor removes or damages it, you will be charged for replacement equipment. If you are closing your home for an extended winter vacation, please consider having your water turned off and your meter removed by the Township. If your home heating system is turned off or fails, your meter is vulnerable to freezing and will leak when the ice melts. If the meter freezes and leaks, you will be charged for a replacement meter.

Credit Card Payments

You can pay your water/sewer bill with a credit card by using your computer to access the Township's web site: www.springlaketwp.org. There is a link on our home page, found on the right side, called Online Bill Pay. A technology fee is added to your payment. We accept credit card payments at our office with a technology fee. We do not accept credit cards by phone.

Automated Bill Payments

The Township also offers automatic bill payment for water and sewer bills. You can sign up for this service using a form on the Township's web site. There is also a form on each water bill that allows you to sign up. You will still receive a printed copy of your bill, but the Township will have your bank remove your payment from an account you designate. The bill will state which date the payment will be removed from your account. This is a very convenient way to pay your water bill and there is no fee for this service.



According to the Township Code, snow may not be deposited from a driveway onto a sidewalk, path or public street. If you use a plow service, make sure the driver knows the rules, because the homeowner will receive the citation.

New Fire Station

Brian Sipe, Fire Chief

The Spring Lake Fire Department is extremely excited to be able to build a new fire station at the corner of Savidge Street and N. Fruitport Road. At the time of this writing the construction bids have gone out and the bid will be awarded in the middle of November. A ground breaking ceremony will take place following the bid award and we will conduct an open house at the facility upon its completion towards the end of 2016.



We appreciate all the input and support we have received from the various neighbors, citizens and public officials of the Village and Township of Spring Lake. This facility is truly a community project and there is no question the input and support that we continue to receive will result in very successful project.

Planning Update

Planning Update

Spring Lake Township has not had a new large scale residential development in many years, but development applications are beginning to pick up again with the stronger economy. At this point in time, the Sanctuary at St. Lazare on W. Spring Lake Road is under development and will offer 32 new home sites, with seven of them having frontage on Spring Lake. This property was the former Catholic retreat and was the last remaining large acreage property on Spring Lake. The Township is also reviewing a proposed Planned Unit Development near Spring Lake High School on 148th Ave that consists of 111 dwelling units (townhouses, ranches, and larger single family homes) and two small commercial areas. Other developments are also under review in the Village of Spring Lake including the Mill Point Senior Housing development and an expansion of the Mill Point Health Center on Savidge Street. These developments indicate a stronger market than in recent years.

We are also working on improving our community engagement processes in the Planning Department by putting all Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals application materials on our website for public viewing (<http://www.springlaketwp.org/Depts/building.shtml>). We will

Lukas Hill, Community Development Director

continue to look for more opportunities to improve community engagement processes and provide information to the general public.

Parks and Recreation

Spring Lake Township will be embarking on a joint planning process for the newly acquired property on the eastern shore of Little Black Lake.



This process will include a natural features inventory of the 42 acres as well as a devising a current and long-term plan for the area. Providing public access to waterfront areas in the Township is a goal of the Recreation Plan

and Master Plan and we were very lucky to be in the right place at the right time to acquire this land. More than 50% of the funds were provided by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which has also helped to fund various park improvements, the North Bank Trail, and the acquisition of other waterfront properties on Leonard Road. Please contact Lukas Hill, Community Development Director, if you are interested in participating in the Little Black Lake planning project at 844-2110 or LHill@springlaketwp.org.

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP

101 S. Buchanan St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456
Phone: 616-842-1340
www.springlaketwp.org

Office Hours: 8am to 5pm Monday-Friday

Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees

John Nash	Supervisor
H. Carolyn Boersma	Clerk
Jim Koster	Treasurer
Rick Homan	Trustee
Ronald Lindquist	Trustee
Lawrence Mierle	Trustee
Rachael Terpstra	Trustee

CALENDAR

Meetings at Barber School, 102 W. Exchange St.

Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees

Time: Second Monday at 7pm

Spring Lake Township Planning Commission

Time: Third Wednesday at 7pm

Spring Lake Township Zoning Board of Appeals

Time: Fourth Thursday at 7pm

Holiday Office Closings:

December 24 & 25, 2015

December 31, 2015 & January 1, 2016

March 25, 2016

May 30, 2016

July 4, 2016



Visit our website to sign up for the Township e-mail newsletter!