

Spring Lake Township

Where Nature Smiles for Seven Miles

Winter 2017

News from the Clerk



Elections

Most of our registered voters were given the opportunity on November 7 to see and use the new election equipment. Next

year is another important election year where the state will choose a new governor, secretary of state, senators and



legislators. We are happy to have new election equipment that is up to date and faster, while still maintaining the state's high standards of accuracy and security.

Cemetery News

Summer grave decorations should have been removed from graves by the beginning of November. Artificial wreaths may be placed on graves or gravesites from November 1 through April 1. Grave blankets are not allowed.

Our cemetery data is now available on our website. Burial information and many headstone photos may be ac-

H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC, Township Clerk

cessed. Follow the link to the Ottawa County Cemetery Mapping site. Zoom in to see individual graves, and click on "View Additional Details" to see any pictures that are available.



Water/Sewer Update

Fall has arrived and winter is not far behind. With these changing seasons come falling leaves and snow. The DPW wishes to remind residents that piling leaves or snow on the bike paths is an ordinance violation. We attempt to maintain the bike path system in a passable condition for the enjoyment of our citizens. If you live near a fire hydrant, please consider keeping the hydrant clear of snow. That will enable firefighters to serve you faster if the need arises. Keeping fire hydrants accessible is especially important if you live on a cul-de-sac where room is very limited. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The Water Department continues to be busy, with the rise in new construction and installation of new water services. Also, the two new subdivisions, Arcadia near Spring Lake High School and Spring Ridge located off Van Wagoner Rd near US 31, require numerous inspections and continuous support for the contractors building the infrastructure.

In September we added a new piece of equipment, a Vac-Tron hydro excavator and water main valve turner, which we use to locate underground utilities such as gas mains and fiber optic cable; clean out and turn water mainline valves; and vacuum, clean and power wash catch basins.



Water Meters

We are currently in our second year of upgrading our radio sending units for reading the water meters. If you receive a pink card hanging on your door, please call and schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience. Our goal is to have this upgrade complete within the next three years.

If you are closing your home for an extended winter vacation, 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 and you will be charged for a replacement meter. If you have any question concerning your water or sewer services please contact Kyle Botbyl, Water and Sewer Supervisor at 616-846-2422 or email kbotbyl@springlaketwp.org. If you have any billing questions or would like to get your water bill emailed to you please contact Rhonda Lafave at 616-842-0080 or email rlafave@springlaketwp.org. Thank you.



Kyle Botbyl, Water and Sewer Supervisor

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



Parks Department Highlights

As 2017 is wrapping up here are some highlights from the Department of Public Works Parks Department:

Bike Path

- Approaches to some of the boardwalks where there was settling causing unsafe transitions have been repaired and replaced.
- Areas on the bike path where tree roots lifted the asphalt were cut out and repaired.
- On Fruitport Road a section of the bike path was cut out and the grade changed to allow water to run off, eliminating the water pooling problem.
- Also on Fruitport Road all of the split rail fence was replaced.
- On West Spring Lake Rd., a drainage culvert damaged from washout was repaired under the bike path.



Homeowners please keep in mind that a 10' wide by 10' tall area needs to be kept clear of all overhanging bushes and

Pete Eliopoulos, Parks Crew Leader

trees. Spring Lake Township will clear the bike path of debris and brush that is encroaching on the path. In addition, with the winter quickly approaching, please know that our Parks Department will snow blow and/or plow the bike paths. In order to keep these areas maintained it is important to remember that snow may not be blown, shoveled or plowed from your driveways onto the bike path.

Rycenga Park

It was another great year at Rycenga Park. In addition to its normal everyday use, this facility gets utilized a lot. From shelter reservations, field reservations, soccer practices/games/tournaments, softball games/practices, cross country meets, and color runs the 80 acre park is fully serving the community. The parks restroom expansion was completed April 2017, new oak trees were planted in the islands of the parking lot and the irrigation well is in the process of being upgraded.



Deputy Spotlight

Smart911 Program

What is it? Smart911 is a nationwide program that is free to everyone. It allows you to make a safety profile for yourself and family, even your dogs. Your information is kept secure and is only accessible by 911 dispatch centers who participate in the program. Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority (OCCDA) is one of those dispatch centers! When you call 911 from any phone you have listed in your Smart911 profile a sub screen is accessed at OCCDA. This screen contains your Smart911 profile and can help the emergency dispatchers get you the aid you need faster.



Examples:

- You are allergic to bees and prone to anaphylactic shock which closes your airway. If you put this information in your profile then the dispatcher can start EMS immediately if you are unable to speak into the phone.
- You have an autistic child who is prone to wandering, or maybe an elderly family member with Alzheimer's/Dementia you can upload their information into your Smart911 profile including a photo. This will help the dispatchers start the needed resources and help responders know who they are looking for before an officer even gets to your home.
- Your house is on fire!!!! You can upload a picture of your home, even blue prints, and also articulate where gas and electric shut-offs are and where the nearest fire hydrant is for the Fire Department. This can save valuable time to help preserve life and property. Wouldn't you like the firefighters to know the layout of your home in the event you had a family member trapped inside?

How do I access this free service?

Go to www.Smart911.com and sign-up, IT IS FREE. Your profile is as simple or as complex and involved as you want to make it. For additional information you may also go to www.ocdda.org or stop at the Spring Lake Sheriff's Branch Office at the corner of Fruitport Rd. and M104 to pick-up a brochure.

Planning Update

Please remember that some minor projects around the home may require building permits. This includes roofing projects, window replacement, siding, and swimming pools. Also note that fences and sheds require zoning permits to ensure proper placement on the property. Applications can be found on our website. And now that it is winter,



Lukas Hill, Community Development Director

please be sure to keep summertime recreational vehicles (campers and boats) parked indoors or behind the home in compliance with the zoning ordinance. Lastly, when the snow falls, we kindly ask that you do not stockpile snow on the bike paths. If you have a snow removal company, please inform them where to safely place the snow on your property. HAVE A GREAT WINTER!

Running with John...

John Nash, Township Supervisor

It is winter in Michigan – what a beautiful time of year. Sorry all you snowbirds – I like winter and I love four seasons.

2017 SLT Accomplishments

With the help of the Ottawa County Road Commission we re-surfaced 168th, 152nd and 174th Aves. SLT fiber-matted Highland, Glendale, Pine Grove, Oak Point, Oak Ridge and Edgewood.

Gordon Gallagher has worked very hard to get us some financial help to fund the replacement of the sanitary sewer line from SLV to the Waste Water Plant.



The bathroom at Rycenga Park is completed thanks to financial help from the Rycenga Family and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation – what a great park!

Our Fire Dept. had another great Fire Prevention week and celebration. They love their new Fire Station – if you haven’t gone to tour it please do – it is spectacular.



Lots more of our fire hydrants have been repainted yellow and look good.

Our 2017 Township of Excellence application is in – that represents a lot of work. We are one of four Townships in the entire State – there are 1,240 Townships in Michigan - to achieved Township of Excellence status



SLT and SLV have now lived in the same building together for almost 2 ½ years. Many said that could never happen; then they said it would never work; and guess what we are doing it. Both municipalities are still separate, but working together, sharing, collaborating and continuing to look for new ways to save tax payer dollars and provide better service to our residents.

SLT and SLV now share Department of Public Works (DPW) major and expensive equipment rather than each owning these machines and vehicles which neither of us use all the time.

SLT and SLV are now starting to share DPW Staff – which means we are more efficient and save tax payer dollars by reducing overtime and providing faster response times in the case of emergencies.

The Village/Township Committee – they have done great work!

This committee has been in place for almost five years. They orchestrated the sale of the old Township Hall and having us move into to the Village Hall. They played a major role in making the new Fire Station a reality. They have been the stimulus to most of the shared DPW personnel and equipment ideas. Their efforts are a tribute to what real municipal collaboration can and should look like. A big thanks to them (and no I am not on that committee.)



Spring Lake Township Still Has.....

- The lowest municipal taxes of any municipality in our area
- The lowest combined municipal water/sewer cost in our area
- A great website – www.springlaketwp.org – 24/7 answers to many questions

Assessing News



Conditional Rescinds are available for those who have purchased a new residence and are trying to sell their previous unoccupied residence. Contact us for a full explanation if this applies to you.

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.

Heather Singleton, Assessor

Please contact our office with any address changes to ensure that you receive your bills and assessment change notices.

Our direct department number is (616) 844-2108.

Our e-mail addresses are:
dnorth@springlaketwp.org

and
hsingleton@springlaketwp.org.

Our website:

<http://www.springlaketwp.org/departments/assessing-department/>

Stay warm and healthy!!

Fire Department News

Brian Sipe, Fire Chief

Home fires occur more in winter than any other season. As you prepare for this winter season, here are some safety tips to consider:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm and check it regularly.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves or space heaters.
- Plug only one (1) heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- When you remove ashes from a fireplace or wood burning stove, make sure they are cool and stored in a tightly covered metal container. Also, make sure to keep the container outside at least 10 feet from your home or nearby building.



Did you know? Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.



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.

Bike Paths



The Township maintains over 26 miles of bike paths. This includes surface maintenance, cleaning up debris on the surface of the bike path and striping. The Township is not responsible for mowing or leaf pick

up in the area between the bike path and the road. We very much appreciate the residents who help by keeping this area mowed and the leaves picked up.



Township Video

We recently completed a Spring Lake Township video. The purpose of the video is to provide residents, businesses and tourists with a short (5 minute), fast-moving picture video highlighting the many great things about the Township. The

video is now on our website, www.springaketwp.org. Please take a moment to watch it and share it with friends and relatives.



Do you enjoy working outside? The Township will be hiring part-time parks employees for Summer 2018. If you are interested, email Township Manager Gordon Gallagher at ggallagher@springlaketwp.org for more information.

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
Ronald Lindquist	Trustee
Cathy Pavick	Trustee
Jerry Rabideau	Trustee
Rachael Terpstra	Trustee

CALENDAR

Meetings at Barber School, 102 W. Exchange

Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees
Second Monday at 7pm

Spring Lake Township Planning Commission
Third Wednesday at 7pm

Spring Lake Township Zoning Board of Appeals
Fourth Thursday at 7pm

Holiday Office Closings

December 22, 2017
 December 25, 2017
 December 29, 2017
 January 1, 2018
 March 30, 2018
 May 28, 2018
 July 4, 2018

