

# Spring Lake Township

Where Nature Smiles for Seven Miles

## Summer 2017



## Running with John...

John Nash, Township Supervisor

Happy summer to all! We had a mild winter, a pretty nice spring and so far summer is looking good. ☺

**Road Work This Summer** – with all the projects one lane will always be open

- 152<sup>nd</sup> Ave, M 104 to Leonard, re-surface in July
- 174<sup>th</sup> Ave, Van Wagoner to Wilson, re-surface probably August
- Local roads to receive fiber mat & micro surface – no date set yet:  
Highland, W. Spring Lake Rd to Spring Lake; Glendale, entire road; Pine Grove, entire road; Oak Point Dr, entire road; Oak Ridge, entire road; Edgewood Ct, entire road



**Fruitport Rd to Krueger Bike Path** – At the little stream, just west of Krueger, there is an AT&T main line which is in the way and very expensive to move. We are working hard to find a resolution to this problem so we can complete the bike path. The rest of the path is open and is beautiful to ride.

**Re-build/Addition Completed— Rycenga Park Bathroom** – Rycenga Park is a great park, but the bathroom has been too small and inadequate for a number of years. Thanks to a major donation from the Rycenga Family and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation the bathrooms are now re-built and expanded. Go out and take a look!

**Short Term Vacation Rentals** – Yes, the Spring Lake Township Board and the Planning Commission have voted to adopt our new Short Term Vacation Rental Ordinance. Yes, again, some of our State Legislators think this should be a State (not a local) issue. I very adamantly disagree with them and many of us locally have been working to convince our Legislators not to support the State taking over a local issue. As they say – “more to come.”

### **SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP - What a GREAT Place to Live!**

- Fantastic natural resources and a lot of caring, considerate people
- Great schools and many welcoming churches
- 26 + miles of bike paths and two, large beautiful parks
- Lowest municipal property tax and the lowest combined water and sewer rate in area
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Township to achieve Township of Excellence of the 1,240 townships in Michigan

## News from the Clerk

H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC, Township Clerk



Spring Lake Township is getting new voting equipment. After using the previous equipment for over 10 years, we are replacing the aging, hard to repair tabulators with new optical scan ballot readers. The new scanners will sit on new, redesigned bases. The voting equipment is being paid for by a

combination of federal, state and local money. We are anticipating that the new tabulators will improve speed in counting your paper ballot. They will also improve election-night poll closing for the election workers. We will



be using the new equipment in Precinct 4 for their August election. Other precincts will see the new equipment the next time they vote.



# Cemetery Update

Spring Lake Cemetery data is now online! We have been working to update our cemetery database with the best available information. That information, along with many headstone photos, is now available through our website. Follow the link on our website to reach the Ottawa County Cemetery Mapping site. Once you are on the cemetery site, click on the Spring Lake Cemetery shortcut. Zoom in to see individual

graves. Click on “View Additional Details” to see any pictures that are available.

Currently there is a lag between data input and its display on the website. We are working with Ottawa County to improve the data updates.



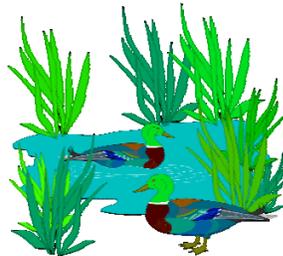
Visit our website to sign up for the Township e-mail newsletter! 

# Planning Update

**Arcadia:** This new development is located adjacent to the Spring Lake High School on 148<sup>th</sup> Ave and will consist of 122 new residential units which are mostly of single family homes, with a few attached condominiums located at the south end of the development. Infrastructure, including water mains, sewer mains, and roads are nearly completed and new home construction is underway. Amenities of Arcadia include nature trails, ponds with public access points, protected wetlands, sidewalks, adjacent bike paths, street trees, pocket parks, and easy access to the aquatic center.

**Spring Ridge:** This development has received final approval from the Township and construction is planned for the summer of 2017. The 50-unit single family home development is located on Van Wagoner between 168<sup>th</sup> Ave and W. Spring Lake Road. The development will offer sidewalks, street trees, ponds, and two open space/park areas. A small stream and protected wetlands within the development will offer a nice buffer between the homes.

Lukas Hill, Community Development Director



**Little Black Lake Park:** A few years ago, Spring Lake Township and the City of Norton Shores acquired 42 acres of land along the eastern shoreline of Little Black Lake. This land connects to the existing Black Lake Park which is accessed

from Wood Road in Norton Shores. To get to the newly acquired area, take Wilson Road east from 174<sup>th</sup> Ave, turn left at Wood Rd, then follow the access road around to Eagles Camp Ground. Veer to the north right before you get to the camp ground entrance and you will enter this new parkland. The park does not have signs up yet nor it is improved with amenities such as a parking lot or trails, but work is planned to add these features in the near future. You are welcome to visit this site; however, please be respectful of the private landowner at the end of the road. This is a nice spot to cast a line or drop in a kayak.

# Assessing News

New construction season is upon us. We are rapidly seeing our landscape change and improve. If you have questions regarding the value an improvement adds to your home, please give us a call.



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

Heather Singleton, Assessor

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:

[dnorth@springlaketwp.org](mailto:dnorth@springlaketwp.org) and

[hsingleton@springlaketwp.org](mailto:hsingleton@springlaketwp.org).

Our website:

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

Enjoy the beautiful summer season!

# Manager's Update

Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager

## Sewer River Crossing Project Update

Last spring we had a rupture in the pipe that carries all of our waste water from north of the Grand River to the wastewater treatment plant located in the city of Grand Haven. The leak has been repaired and the pipe is currently functioning properly. However, since that time we have been working diligently to prepare for replacing that pipe. The current timeline for the replacement project has us completing the design engineering and construction bid documents by December 31, 2017. We would then begin building the new pipeline by April 1, 2018, with construction continuing through the rest of 2018. The project completion is estimated for spring/summer of 2019. Although this may seem like a long time out, it is actually an aggressive timeline for this type of infrastructure project. As the project continues, we will keep you updated. Also, it should be

noted that we are applying for a grant to assist in paying for this project. If the grant funding is approved it may add 4 to 6 months to the timeline, but it will be worth the wait. Thank you to the area residents; we are blessed to live in a community that cares about the environment and cares about maintaining its underground utilities.



## Volunteering

Volunteering is one way to make our community better.

There are many ways that you can give back to your community. Please consider spending some of your time volunteering for the cause of your choice. Spring Lake is a wonderful community because of the caring, passionate residents who always find a way to make things better. Thank you.

## Deputy Spotlight

Deputy Travis Babcock, Community Policing

Did you know the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office has a residential property check program that is free to all citizens in Spring Lake Township? You may have your home checked by a deputy while you are away for a couple of weeks or six months; it makes no difference. Many of our property checks are for those in the community who have a second home out of state where they reside in the winter. We also watch homes for families where the homeowner has been moved to an assisted living center or has recently passed. This helps keep eyes on the property while it is temporarily vacant and the family decides how they wish to move forward.



There are three ways to sign up:

- You may stop in and fill a form out at the Spring Lake Township Hall (101 S. Buchanan St.), Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Spring Lake Branch Office (106 N. Fruitport Rd.), or the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters (12220 Fillmore St., West Olive).
- You may go online to the Spring Lake Township website. Go to the "Department" heading and look for "Law Enforcement". From there you should see a link for the "Property Check Form". Print it off, fill it out, and drop off at one of the above locations listed in option 1 or fax to the attention of Deputy Travis Babcock at 1-616-215-1596.
- You may call Deputy Babcock's voicemail with your request and he will make contact with you during one of his shifts. Voicemail: 1-616-738-4000 Ext. \*1483#

Once you have signed up, a deputy will make contact with you to complete a checklist of items we'll need in the event we find your home needs attention. We will need a local key holder/emergency contact for your property in the event we need to gain access. Once you have gone, a deputy will physically check your home by walking the perimeter, checking the doors and windows and observing any subtle differences between checks. We are looking for signs of crimes such as break-in, larceny, and malicious destruction of property. We are also looking for things like natural disaster damage and broken water pipes. If a crime is found, an investigation will be started immediately. In all cases, if something out of the ordinary is found we will contact you (if contact is possible due to your destination) and we will call your local key holder/emergency contact. Upon your return you will receive a letter welcoming you back to the community and a copy of the inspection sheet with the dates and times your home was checked.

Please try to give a couple of weeks advance notice so that we can best accommodate your request. Hopefully this peace of mind will make your time away that much more enjoyable. It is an honor to serve Spring Lake Township. Please be safe!

# Fire Department News

Brian Sipe, Fire Chief

## Burn Ordinance Modification

The Township is currently in the process of modifying the existing burn ordinance. The changes to take effect are an effort to streamline the permitting process and provide a better communication for our residents when it comes to cancelling and/or rescheduling a burn day. Overall, the intent and bulk of the burn ordinance remains the same but here are a few items that have been modified or better defined:



1. Online pay option.
2. Online permit application and submission.
3. Burning on burn days will be from 7am to 8pm.
4. Recreational fires should be conducted in a fire pit, fire-retaining ring or portable container that is 3 feet in diameter or less.
5. No need to call the fire department the morning of burn day to notify that you are burning.
6. Mass communication function to notify residents on burn day status.

More information will be disseminated as we get closer to rolling out the new process.

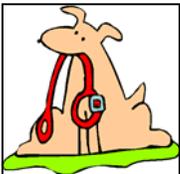
According to the Township Code, all premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds (including grass) or plant growth in excess of 6 inches. Please keep the grass in the front, side and back yards cut to avoid a notice of violation.



## DPW Update

John Stuparits, DPW Director

In 2015, Spring Lake Township was awarded a grant in the amount of \$849,672 for the development of an asset management plan for our wastewater collection system. This grant required a local match of 10% which resulted in a savings for the Township of \$764,705. As part of this grant, most of our sewer system was video televised to identify potential problem areas (joint connections, line condition, areas of potential plugging, infiltration, etc.). This televising process started last November covering approximately 150,000 feet of sewer line and should be complete in early June. Thank you to all of our residents for your understanding and patience during this sometimes annoying process. Now that the warmer weather is here, take the time to get out and enjoy our incredible parks (Rycenga, River Run, Water Tank) and our 28 miles of bike path.



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!

## SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP

101 S. Buchanan St.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
Phone: 616-842-1340  
[www.springlaketwp.org](http://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
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**  
July 4, 2017  
September 4, 2017  
November 23 & 24, 2017

