

## Running with John...

**John Nash, Township Supervisor**



There are over 1,240 townships in the Michigan Townships Association (MTA). The MTA established a program to recognize outstanding MTA townships back in 2008. They wanted to “recognize strong, vibrant communities that adhere to best practices to deliver quality programs and services, and accomplish community-driven goals.”

Spring Lake Township was the first township in Michigan to achieve the complete ‘MTA Township of Excellence Standards’ in 2012 (2012-16). A township has to re-apply every 4 years to continue to qualify for the Township of Excellence Award. SLT is the only township in Michigan to achieve the standard twice in a row (2016-20). There are only four townships in the MTA who are currently recognized as Townships of Excellence.



The following are the SLT staff members and elected officials who make these outstanding accomplishments possible:

Our Assessing Dept. – Heather Singleton, Denise North and Jerry Groeneveld

Our Treasurer’s Office – Jim Koster - Treasurer, Amy Bessinger, and Kathy Giant

Our Clerk’s Office – Carolyn Boersma - Clerk, Sue Ogden, and Margaret Shay

Our Building & Planning Dept. – Lukas Hill

Our DPW Dept. – Wally Delamater, Kyle Botbyl, Pete Eliopoulos, Lori Spelde, Darcie Benter, Davis Allison, Will Dirkse, Erik Erhorn, Ty Inso, Eli Locascio, Brendon O’Hara, Michael Rice, Scott Rochon, Eric Schindlbeck, and Dave Shaw

Our Receptionist – Mary Paparella

Our Township OCSD Deputies – Travis Babcock, John Smoes

Our Township Manager – Gordon Gallagher

Our Township Board Members – Ron Lindquist, Cathy Pavick, Jerry Rabideau, and Rachel Terpstra

## News from the Clerk

**H. Carolyn Boersma, MMC, Township Clerk**



### Cemetery

I’m sure you’ve noticed that many trees have been removed from the cemetery. These trees were diseased, storm damaged, or were located in inappropriate places. We have had many requests, so we are taking donations toward replacement trees. Tree varieties and cemetery locations

will be chosen to enhance the cemetery without causing the problems we had with the previous trees. If you would like to donate toward or sponsor a tree, please contact me at 844-2101.

### Elections

2020 will be a busy election year. All precincts will be voting on  
 March 10 – Presidential Primary  
 August 4 – General Primary  
 November 3 – Presidential Election

Voters in the Grand Haven school district (Precinct 1) will be voting on May 5.

With all the election changes, the State has changed many election forms. See the article on the back page of this newsletter for more information about election changes.

Remember, voters in Precincts 3 and 4 will now be voting in the Activity Center at St. Mary’s Catholic Church (406 E. Savidge).

Spring Lake Township does not operate a combined sewer system. Combined systems can handle both sanitary sewage and storm water runoff. Our sewer system is designed to handle only sanitary sewage (from sinks, toilets, showers, laundry facilities) and cannot handle storm water, footing drains or roof runoff. In recent weeks, some of our sewage pumping stations were overwhelmed by the amount of storm water introduced by illicit connections of footing drains, sump pumps and downspouts. Some pumping stations were pumping as much as seven times normal volumes. Illicit connections rob the system through increased pumping costs, increased wear, increased treatment costs and increased maintenance. Please help protect the longevity of our wastewater collection system by making sure that your footing drains, sump pumps and downspouts do not discharge to the sanitary sewer system.

## Fire Protection

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.

## After-hours Emergencies

The township provides water and sewer customers with a way to reach emergency assistance from our DPW. Call our regular water department number, 616-844-2104. Please follow the prompts and give your name and phone number. Your message will be forwarded to the on-call DPW staff person, who will return your call.



**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.**

## Safe Home Heating

**Brian Sipe, Fire Chief**

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires per the U.S. Fire Administration. You can prevent a heating fire with these simple tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, portable heater and radiators.
- When you leave a room or go to bed, turn heaters off or unplug them.
- Have your furnace and chimney inspected by a professional before each winter.

**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**

This summer (2019) the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office worked Cleveland St. (M-104) heavily, looking for passing on the right shoulder violations. Some people were confused about this law. The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code 257.637 (2) states: *The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting the overtaking and passing in safety. The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.*

If you cross the fog line (the solid white line that follows the right edge of the roadway) it is not considered the main-traveled portion, even if it is paved. To pass a vehicle on the right, you must have ample roadway (extra wide lane sometimes found in municipal areas to allow for street parking), another traffic lane to the right, or a flare lane (elongated white line inside the fog line) designed for the purpose of passing on the right. If there is not a traffic lane available, you must wait until the vehicle turns.



Roadway      Fog Line      Shoulder



Roadway      Flare Lane      Fog Line      Shoulder

## Parks Department Highlights

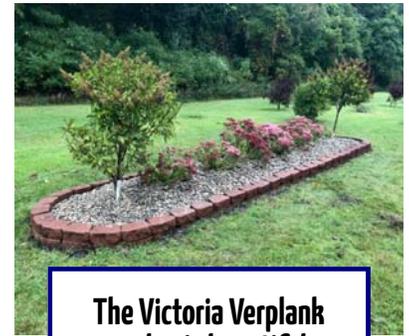
Pete Eliopoulos, Parks Crew Leader



New informative trail sign at Rycenga Park



The main parking lot at Rycenga Park has been repaved.



The Victoria Verplank garden is beautiful.

## Planning Update

Lukas Hill, Community Development Director

### Spring Lake Township Recreation

Spring Lake Township is working on updating the 5-Year Recreation Plan in collaboration with the Village of Spring Lake, City of Ferrysburg, City of Grand Haven, and Grand Haven Township. The Recreation Plan identifies goals for the future and prioritizes projects to be considered in the next five years. Over the last five years, the Township completed projects such as installation of a bike path from Krueger St. to S. Fruitport Road along M104, collaborated with Norton Shores on the installation a new accessible kayak launch at Little Black Lake, and expanded the restrooms at Rycenga Park. Based on the recent survey that was conducted (see it here: <http://www.springlaketwp.org/departments/parks-recreation/>), the highest recreational priority for Township residents was access to natural areas/hiking and usage/expansion of the nonmotorized pathways.

### New Development

The Villas at the Spring Lake Country Club is a new development by Eastbrook Homes. It is an 88-dwelling development on State Road near 148th Ave and it received final approval from the Township Planning Commission in October of 2019. New homes will likely be under construction yet this fall as they have been working hard to complete infrastructure such as water and sewer line extensions.

This year there have been 47 new single-family dwellings and 23 new mobile homes which have received building permits. We have not issued this many permits in one year since 2005.

## Assessing News

Heather Singleton, Assessor

**Personal Property Holders:** If you filed Form 5076 for exemption last year, you are no longer required to annually file the form. When you no longer qualify, you will be required to file Rescission Form 5618 and a personal property statement no later than February 20<sup>th</sup> of the year that the property is no longer eligible.

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.



**Veteran's exemption and poverty exemption** filers please remember to file annually.

**IMPORTANT!!** You can NOT have two PRE's unless you qualify AND fill out the correct paperwork. The additional form is called a Conditional Rescind Form and is available for those who have purchased a new residence to live

in and are still trying to sell their previous residence. Contact us for a full explanation if this applies to you.

Please contact our office with any address changes, including seasonal 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/>

# Election Updates

Carolyn Boersma, MMC, Clerk

Big changes are coming to elections! With the passage of Proposal 18-3, election law has had an update.

The biggest change for our voters is no-reason absentee ballots. You no longer have to check a reason – you just have to submit a written request to receive an absentee ballot. A form is available on our website. The form, or other written request, can be mailed to us or dropped off at Township Hall. We can even receive your signed request as an email attachment, which might be useful for students away at school. If you would like us to send you an application for each election, you can be placed on the permanent absentee voter list. Call me at 844-2101 or email [vote@springlaketwp.org](mailto:vote@springlaketwp.org) with your request.

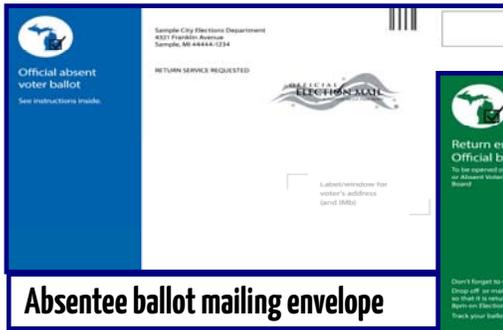
Another change is same-day voter registration. Registrations can be submitted as before, with a 15-day cutoff. After the cut-off date, new voters can register at the Clerk's office in Township Hall. Bring your photo ID, or proof of residence. The documentation you bring determines whether your vote is counted on Election Day, or if you vote a challenged ballot.

With the changes in election law come changes in forms. The new absentee ballot application form that we will be mailing will be a postcard format. This will make it easier for us to send and for voters to return.

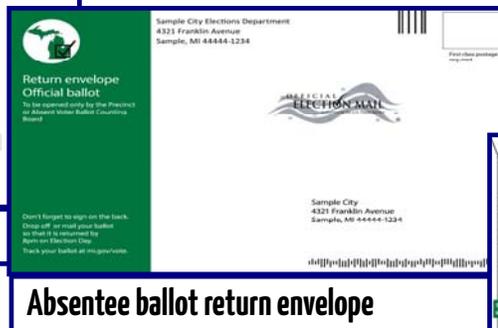
Absentee ballots will be mailed in a newly-designed envelope. The new envelope should help eliminate confusion at the post office, so that postal workers know which direction the ballot is going – to you or returning to us. Your ballot will arrive in an envelope with a blue band. After voting, you will return your ballot to us in an envelope with a green band. The signature panel on the return envelope has also been updated, so it is easier to remember to sign your envelope before returning your ballot.



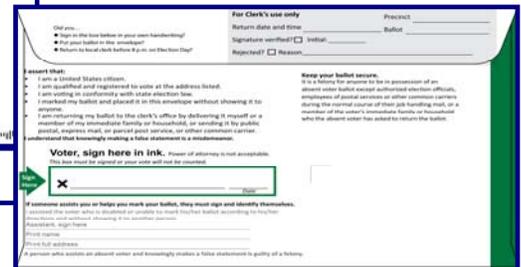
**Absentee Application Postcard**



**Absentee ballot mailing envelope**



**Absentee ballot return envelope**



**Back of return envelope**



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
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 24 and 25, 2019  
December 31, 2019  
January 1, 2020  
April 10, 2020  
May 25, 2020  
July 3, 2020



Visit [www.springlaketwp.org](http://www.springlaketwp.org) to sign up for the Township e-mail newsletter!

