



# Summer 2015 Newsletter

## Running with John...John Nash, Township Supervisor

This will be a busy summer for SLT:

SLT may be moving into the SLV Hall and sharing office space.

All of Fruitport Road will be paved. Howard Avenue, Beach Drive, and most of the roads in Strawberry Point will be re-coated.

Plans will get into full swing for the new Spring Lake Fire Station at M104 and Fruitport Rd. Hopefully the construction of the new bike bath from Krueger to Fruitport Road will start. The joint path effort between Ferrysburg and SLT along 168<sup>th</sup> is already completed.



### Fruitport Rd. Construction

The Ottawa County Road Commission and MDOT have secured the funding needed to re-pave the full length of Fruitport Road from M104 to Apple Drive. The project has been bid out and will be done during July 2015 by Michigan Paving & Materials Company which is a very large Michigan contractor. Obviously this will be a major project and be very involved; however, the end will justify the process. One lane will always be open to traffic (they will have to flag the traffic). This project will begin around June 29. The project completion date will be between July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>. The work will be done on the shoulders first, then the milling of connecting roads and driveways, and finally the paving. They will be adding 3½" of pavement. We will provide all updates as we receive them on our Township website. These types of projects are always a hassle when they are being worked on and then when they are completed we will all be very thankful for the greatly improved road for the next 20+ years.

### SLV and SLT Sharing the Village Hall

When the Village and Ferrysburg changed from their own police department to the Ottawa County Sheriff there was a considerable amount of office space in the Village Hall that was not being used. About the same time the Township was looking for the best way to get extra needed office space as we have been outgrowing our current building. The other major need in the downtown area of the Village is more parking and a permanent home for the Farmers Market. Put all these things together and the Township and Village each formed a committee to look into the best ways to resolve all these issues. The answer that makes the most sense for the local taxpayers, the Village and the Township is for the Village and the Township to **share** office space in the Village Hall. This definitely does not mean one municipality, but it does mean the best utilization of available space. These kinds of very major collaborations take a lot of time to work out the details, but things are definitely progressing in that direction. Thanks to the many hours these committee members have put in – most of the time meeting at 7 am.

Spring Lake Township is still on the top of many lists:

- ⇒ Out of the 1,240 Townships in Michigan, SLT was the first to achieve the *Township of Excellence* Standard in 2012. In 2014, a second Township achieved that standard.
- ⇒ SLT still has the lowest retained millage rate in the area.
- ⇒ SLT still has the lowest combined water and sewer rate.
- ⇒ Our area has residents who care, share and get involved.

## News from the Clerk

H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC, Township 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. Voters on the permanent absentee list

will receive their applications in advance of each election. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the Clerk's Office for help.

With the growth of the Township and the facility changes, there is a need to move the voter polling place for some of the precincts. If your precinct is moving, you will receive a new Voter ID card in the mail with the location of your new polling place.

We are continuing our program of tree planting at Spring Lake Township Cemetery, and we have added sprinklers on the east side of the cemetery. We have also installed the last loop of road within the cemetery. This is opening up the last sections of the cemetery for sale. Cemetery prices remain the same as they have for the last 10 years.



# Planning Update

Lukas Hill, Community Development Director

## Township Bike Paths and New Park Land

**M104 Bike Path:** This future ½ mile bike path along M104 (south side) between Krueger and N. Fruitport Road is in the design stages at this time. We are working with the Michigan Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Quality to coordinate the design of the creek crossing near M104 and Krueger Street at the north end of Lloyd's Bayou. We are also working with All Shores Wesleyan Church to provide an alternate path route off of M104 to provide a more scenic and safe route to S. Fruitport Road. This is a high priority trail for Spring Lake Township to connect the 152<sup>nd</sup> Ave neighborhood with the Village and other pathways. We hope to begin construction on this pathway in the fall of 2015.

**168<sup>th</sup> Ave Bike Path:** This new pathway along the southern part of 168<sup>th</sup> Ave from W. Spring Lake Road to Van Wagoner is in the final stages of construction. This is a collaborative effort with Spring Lake Township and the City of Ferrysburg as the pathway is on the municipal border. This will provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists in the surrounding neighborhood including Bridlepath Drive residents.

**Little Black Lake:** Spring Lake Township has acquired 30 acres along the eastern shoreline of Little Black Lake in the north-west area of the Township. About two thirds of the funds needed to acquire the property were awarded through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. This was a collaborative effort with the City of Norton Shores as they also acquired an additional



13 acres on Little Black Lake north of the Township property. In total, over 80 acres on the east side of Little Black Lake has been preserved for permanent public use. A grant application has been to the Michigan Coastal Zone Management program to perform a natural features inventory of the property and to help develop preliminary park plans for the area.

## DPW Update

Ron Brondyke, DPW Director

### Sanitary Sewers, Groundwater, and Runoff

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 the spring of 2015, 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.

## Assessing News

We have new homes being constructed and developments starting to change the scenery. We consider this a very good sign!!

We are looking for any suggestions or information that you would like presented in an educational class. Please contact us by e-mail or phone with those suggestions.

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 thru 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](mailto:dnorth@springlaketwp.org) and [hsingleton@springlaketwp.org](mailto:hsingleton@springlaketwp.org). Our website: <http://www.springlaketwp.org/Depts/assessing.shtml>

# Site Approved for the New Fire Station

The site plan for the new fire station at the NE corner of M-104 & Fruitport Road has been approved. The preparation of construction drawings and bid documents is underway. Construction will begin with a ground breaking celebration in the fall and the entire project should be completed in the summer of 2016. When this new building is completed, the two stations that currently serve the Village of Spring Lake and the East side of Spring Lake Township will be sold and operations will be consolidated into this one new fire station. The building is centrally located and the availability and control of the traffic signal makes this an ideal location for Fire Department response.



## Manager's Update

Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager

### Township Financial Rationale for Leasing Space within the Village Hall

The proposed cost of leasing space in the Village Hall is approximately \$45,000 per year (the current estimate is \$47,303 - \$4,362 for leased space in the new Fire Station for a net of \$42,941 per year). By leasing space within the Village Hall we will save on utilities, maintenance, capital expenditures and potentially staffing costs. Additionally we will save from the costs of replacing our outdated phone system and benefit from a fiber optic internet connection.

Our current cost of utilities at the Township Hall is \$15,000 per year. We will no longer have this expense upon completion of this project. The current Township Hall maintenance expense is \$2,500 per year. This number is low as we have continued to defer maintenance at our current location.

10 years ago SLT received recommendations for fully upgrading our location for \$3 million. (Based on our current financing proposal this would cost \$250,000 per year for 20 years). This was shelved due to cost and other considerations. Three years ago the Township Board decided against spending \$65,000 to upgrade the entry and improve security for the Township offices. Additionally, we have not taken action toward re-roofing our building.

Leasing space in the Village Hall will make revisiting these decisions unnecessary.

In the future there will be opportunities for additional staff sharing. When these opportunities arise, each community will be able to weigh the benefits along with any service concerns. It is anticipated that the Managers will make recommendations and the Village and Township elected officials will make a determination (at that future time) about whether we should pursue these opportunities. Our current staff sharing represents a \$24,120 per year benefit to the Township (Planner and Water Billing). These will be reviewed as they arise and it is expected that they will be documented through separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) or agreements. Additionally, we will see savings by sharing minor equipment (copiers, postage meters, binding machines, etc.). There is not a specific dollar number estimated for this as this manager believes that the savings will likely be used to upgrade the equipment for our mutual benefit.

At this time we are tentatively planning on moving in to the Village Hall on or near August 1<sup>st</sup>. We will schedule a community open house or celebration once we get settled in our new space. If you have additional questions regarding this project, please contact Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager – [ggallagher@springlaketwp.org](mailto:ggallagher@springlaketwp.org).



**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 both the front and back yards cut to avoid a notice of violation.**

# Deputy Spotlight

Deputy Travis Babcock, Community Policing

Did you know passing on the right is unlawful? Well, most of the time. Virtually everyone I stop for this violation say they did not know it was against the law to do so. In general, if you have to leave the main traveled portion of the roadway to pass someone on the right you are doing so illegally. The shoulder, paved or not, is not part of the main traveled portion of the roadway. For example, how many times have you been behind someone who has been waiting to turn left (**CLEVELAND-M104 and 150<sup>th</sup> Ave**) and you don't have the patience to wait so you saw no harm in driving around them to the right to go about your business? You just committed a civil infraction according to **MCL257.637** which you could be stopped and cited for. I'd be willing to bet if I took a show of hands everyone would have their hand up.

So when can you pass on the right?

- When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left hand turn. But wait just a second...didn't I just say we couldn't do that?! Correct, this exception applies to roadways where the main traveled portion of the roadway allows you the ability to do so. Flare lanes are an example of this. Flare lanes are specifically placed passing lanes on the right side of the roadway, typically where there is a lot of left turning traffic. Quite often these will be at "T" intersections. The large shoulders on Cleveland-M104 and 150<sup>th</sup> are not flare lanes.
- Upon a street when there is unobstructed pavement (main travelled roadway) not occupied by parked cars where there is sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles. Huh?...This one is confusing. Let me give you an example: Robbins Road in Grand Haven has a section of wide road like this east of S. Beechtree Street. The north side of the main travelled roadway is painted for roadside parking. If you were following someone westbound who was turning left into Robbins Nest Apartments or The Village Green you could pass on the right as long as there was no parked car obstructing you to do so.
- Multi-lane same direction roadway with traffic moving in substantially continuous lines. Example: If you are travelling on a two or more lane roadway and traffic is backed up (Think westbound Savidge Street between Buchanan Street and Ferrysburg during the summer) you may pass the cars in the left lane while driving in the right lane.
- A one way street. If you are travelling on a one way street which has multiple lanes, like Franklin Ave. in Grand Haven, you may use the right lane to pass a car in the left lane. The exception I cited in #2 can also apply to a one way street that is a single lane but the main travelled portion of the roadway is extra wide, usually to provide for on road parking.
- Under the direction of fire/law enforcement/construction because of an obstruction in the lane.

Always remember to make sure the conditions are safe to pass. Be smart out there Spring Lake Township. Let us be the leading examples to others on the roadways.



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

106 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
Lawrence Mierle	Trustee
Rachael Terpstra	Trustee

## CALENDAR

Meetings at Township Hall:

**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:

July 3, 2015

September 7, 2015

November 26 & 27, 2015



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