Running with John... John Nash, Township Supervisor

Why Spring Lake Township is such a Great Place

1. MTA Township of Excellence Award – there are over 1,250 Townships in Michigan – Spring Lake Township was the first and is the only township to achieve this award status two times
2. Excellent Fire Department with very well-qualified on-call staff for fire and health emergencies; two fire stations, one brand new, which has earned LEED Gold recognition, and one rebuilt in excellent condition; no additional tax dollars for either station
3. Full time police force for our schools and community through the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office
4. Very good water and sewer system, with the lowest area-wide combined water/sewer rates
5. Good roads with no additional road millage
6. Excellent collaboration—shared municipal town hall building; shared DPW equipment and staff; shared planner; shared tax collection; shared meeting building; mutual water system and sewer system; and a very good mutual aid fire department system
7. Exemplary financial status—always good audit reports, no significant legacy indebtedness
8. Very good bike path system which has been continually supported by a resident-voted millage
9. Rycenga Park—an outstanding Township park with many facilities for a wide range of activities for residents of all ages
10. High achieving schools, welcoming churches, and a highly rated library
11. Natural beauty with Lake Michigan, Spring Lake and the Grand River

News from the Clerk

This year is a busy election year. The primary election will be held on Tuesday August 7, and the general election will be held on Tuesday November 6. New this year is the Libertarian Party gaining ballot access for the primary. As in previous primaries, you must vote for only one party. There are no ballot questions on the August ballot, so there is no non-partisan section.

The November election will include the general election for federal, state, county and local representation, and several ballot proposals. In a general election you are able to vote for any candidate of your choosing, regardless of party.

The deadline to register to vote for the August 7 primary is July 9. The deadline to register to vote for the November 6 general election is October 9. You may register to vote in person at the Township Hall or at a Secretary of State office, or by mail. Remember that if you are a newly registered voter who registered by mail you must vote in person for your first election.

Absentee ballots can be requested for all elections. If you work or shop outside of Spring Lake Township, you can be considered absent from the jurisdiction and are eligible to vote absentee. To request an absentee ballot, call me at 844-2101 or print the application from our website, www.springlaketwp.org. If you are on the permanent absent voter list, you should have received your application already. If you would like to be placed on the permanent absent voter list, call the Clerk’s office and someone can help you.

Election information, precinct locations and helpful voter information is available on the Township website, www.springlaketwp.org/departments/ clerk/. You can also contact me at 844-2101 with any questions.

Make your voice heard and vote!
Parks Department Highlights

Rycenga Park has new hours:
April 1 – October 3: 7am-9:30pm
November 1—March 31: 8am-7:30pm.

We have also added signs to Water Tower Park and River Run Park.

Pete Eliopulos, Parks Crew Leader

Deputy Spotlight

Here’s the scene: You are driving down Cleveland St. westbound coming home from out of town. The car in front of you stops to turn left onto 150th Ave. (that’s the short street with the water tower on it). What do you do? The answer…STOP! That is your only choice in that area.

“But the shoulder of the road is so wide there why can’t I just drive around them on the right?” Yes, the road is wide but those are shoulders, not lanes. Look at the solid white fog line painted there.

“But if I had not quickly gone to the right I would have rear ended the car.” Then slow down and don’t ride so close to the car in front of you; allow a reactionary gap.

You may only pass on the right of someone who is turning left when you have one of the following:
1. You have enough traveled portion of the roadway to make the pass, such as the vehicle nearly completing their turn and giving up the majority of the traveled roadway, or the traveled roadway is wide enough with no obstruction such as a parked vehicle. In either case proceed cautiously. If you have to cross a fog line or if you find yourself driving onto the gravel shoulder then you have left the traveled portion of the roadway.
2. There is a designated flare lane that allows you to pass. A flare lane is a widening of the roadway made specifically to pass on the right. You will often find flare lanes at “T” intersections. Flare lanes you may be familiar with are N. Fruitport Rd./Beach St. and Apple Dr./northwest entrance to Hidden Oaks Community.

Here’s the scene: You are driving on Savidge St. eastbound and traffic is coming to a stop because the light just changed to red at Lake Ave. There are about 15 cars stopping in front of you and you’re just past Parkhurst Ave. You want to turn north on Lake Ave. to go to the beach. What do you do? The answer…STOP! That is your only choice in that area.

“But nobody is in the center lane.” Correct, and let’s keep it that way. The center lane is used for turning and only when you are at your turn do you enter the center lane. People who are turning into their driveways need to use this lane.

“But there’s a turn lane for Lake Ave.” True, but look at the paint on the roadway. If you are beyond the yellow lines, where the line breaks and makes the turn lane for Lake Ave. you may enter into the turn lane. If you are next to the yellow lines then stay in your lane and get over when the break occurs.

“But everyone else does it!” That is what I’m trying to curb here, please stop doing this.

“Is there any other time I can use the center lane?” Yes, if the travel lane is obstructed (downed tree/debris, stopped garbage truck, stopped delivery, etc…), but only for the distance needed to go around he obstruction. Proceed cautiously while doing this.

Let’s be the examples for the rest of West Michigan. Drive Safely Spring Lake!
**Assessing News**

**Heather Singleton, Assessor**

IMPORTANT!! Conditional Rescind Forms are available for those who have purchased a new residence and are still trying to sell their previous residence. Your previous residence MUST be unoccupied, for sale, and you MUST fill out the form to qualify. 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.

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**Water/Sewer Update**

**Kyle Botbyl, Water and Sewer Supervisor**

The Water Department will once again be clearing debris, painting, and flushing fire hydrants throughout Spring Lake Township over the summer and early fall months. If there is a fire hydrant located in front of your home, please do not landscape with in a 10-foot radius of that fire hydrant. If you notice that a fire hydrant has been damaged, has missing caps, is leaking water, or is blocked by shrubs, vegetation, or other debris please contact Spring Lake Township and report the issue.

Spring Lake Township is continuing the process of offering our quarterly water bills in a paperless, emailed bill format. If you wish to begin the process of receiving your water bill via email, please email your information to Rhonda LaFave at rlafave@springlaketwp.org.

Visit www.springlaketwp.org to sign up for the Township e-mail newsletter!

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**Planning Update**

Spring Lake Township continues to grow as there have been 31 new home permits issued through June 1st this year. Most of these homes are located in the new developments of Arcadia, Spring Ridge and St. Lazerre, with a few teardown/rebuilds along Spring Lake. The Township is also in the process of reviewing another new development at the southwest corner of 148th Ave and M104. This proposed development consists of 42 attached dwellings, primarily in clusters of four units each. The developer plans to rent the units once completed, then consider selling them as individual condos. A new bike path will be required to be installed along M104 across the frontage of the property that will begin the effort of connecting 148th Ave west to Krueger St. with a safe non-motorized option.

The Township is considering a Corridor Improvement Authority along M104 for the purposes of enhancing the roadway and commercial activity along it. This process is in the early stages and we encourage you to contact the Township if you have any questions or would like to be involved in the process of establishing the authority.

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**Assessing News**

**Lukas Hill, Community Development Director**

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**Assessing News**

**Heather Singleton, Assessor**

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/

Always take time to enjoy all of our natural beauty!!
LEED Gold Fire Station

We were recently awarded LEED Gold for our newly constructed Fire Station #1 located at 106 N. Fruitport Rd. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is a program for buildings, homes and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

To achieve LEED Gold, we implemented various items aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Part of the design includes 149 solar panels that are installed on the roof over the apparatus bays and offset approximately 60% of the building’s power consumption.

Fire Station #1 is only the second fire station in the State of Michigan to obtain a LEED Gold Certification.

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.

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, 2018
September 3, 2018
November 12, 2018
November 22 & 23, 2018