Running with John...

Why Spring Lake Township is such a Great Place
This is a great area in which to live for many very real reasons. Recent things that make this a great area:

- Resolution of the Grand River sewer pipe issue
- Highly rated school systems
- New waterfront stadium
- Reimagination Station completion
- Rebuilt South Pier and refurbished catwalk (to be installed spring 2019)
- New Ottawa Sands county park

All of these items the Spring Lake Township Board and many residents encouraged. These items will benefit the area and Township residents for years to come.

Great things about Spring Lake Township:
- Completed the bike path from Fruitport Rd to Krueger
- One of the best examples of municipal collaboration in the country
- Our LEED Gold M104 fire station was selected the best commercial LEED building of 2018
- Financing for the Grand River sewer pipeline and upgrades to that system secured while still maintaining the lowest combined water and sewer rates in the area
- Lowest municipal tax rate in the area
- Spring Lake Township was the first Michigan township to earn the Michigan Township of Excellence award and the only Michigan township to earn that challenging award twice

News from the Clerk

Election News
My staff and Spring Lake poll workers are among the best that the state has to offer. They are a hardworking, dedicated group of men and women who truly enjoy being involved in the election process. I know the residents of Spring Lake share my gratitude for their willingness to work the 15-plus hours on Election Day.

The media is already gearing up for the 2020 presidential election cycle. So is my office. We are always striving to “do it better.” My staff and I review the past election and look for ways to make the voting experience, for you the residents, streamlined and flawless.

Cemetery News
Many of the trees in the cemetery are old and significant maintenance is required. Every year we experience very large limbs falling from these trees. To avoid any damage or injury, many of the dead trees will be removed before next summer. Several years ago, a tree replacement program was instituted and will remain on-going to keep the cemetery looking as park-like as possible. While we are sorry to see the old trees go, safety of the people visiting the cemetery is the primary goal.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!
Water/Sewer Update

Fall has arrived and winter is not far behind it. 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.

Water Meters
We are currently in our third 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, please 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 please contact Rhonda LaFave at 616-842-0080 or email rlafave@springlaketwp.org.

Deputy Spotlight

Deputy Travis Babcock, Community Policing

Snowmobiles
Snowmobiles are not allowed on any county-funded roadway in Ottawa County. They are also not allowed on any bike paths in the Township. Snowmobiles are allowed on roadways in other counties. In Ottawa County you may cross a public roadway from one piece of private property to another. How do you know if your road is county funded? If it is plowed/maintained by the Road Commission then it is highly likely your road is county funded. If you live on a private roadway you may snowmobile on the road. If people are skating or sledding, maintain a 100’ distance from them. Visit www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling for more information on State regulations.

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!

Operation Save a Life

The Spring Lake Fire Department is now part of the Operation Save a Life program. This program provides free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to homeowners within Spring Lake Township and the Village of Spring Lake. We will install the devices in your home and provide a free home safety assessment to help protect you and your family. For further information and to see if you are eligible for this program, call our office at 616-215-1590.

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

Please note a Conditional Rescind is NOT automatic. Conditional Rescinds 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.

The consumer price index for property taxes billed in 2019 will be an increase of 2.4%.

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.

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/

Stay warm and healthy!! Happy Holidays!!

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**Planning Update**

Spring Lake Township is seeing more development than it has in the last ten years with 50 new single family homes being constructed so far in 2018. Another new development is being proposed on the north side of State Road just east of the Spring Lake Country Club and west of the 148th Ave. The proposal includes 88 new dwelling units that will include both detached and attached (duplex style) homes.

The Township is looking into creating a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) in order to improve both the function and appearance of the M104 corridor. The CIA, which will be volunteer board of property owners within the district, will guide opportunities to improve streetscaping, transportation, and utility availability.

The North Bank Trail, which currently terminates at 130th Ave in Crockery Township, will be extended three miles eastward into Nunica in 2019, completing Phase 2. One will be able to ride eight miles from Old Boys Brewhouse to the Crockery Creek Saloon on a separated rail trail! Efforts to generate funding for Phase 3 of the NBT between 112th and 96th Ave will get underway in the spring of 2019.

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**Parks Department Highlights**

Thank you to the volunteers who helped install the Victoria Verplank Memorial Garden along the North Bank Trail east of Fruitport Rd. Your efforts are appreciated by everyone who uses the North Bank Trail.

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**Pete Eliopulos, Parks Crew Leader**

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**Lukas Hill, Community Development Director**

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**Heather Singleton, Assessor**

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Fire Department News

Certified Green Public Building Award
On November 8, 2018, our new fire station was honored by the U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan as the highest rated LEED Gold commercial building in 2018. This rating is based on high-performing design and energy-efficient features that will provide a quick return on investment. Cheri Holman, Executive Director of the U.S. Green Building council of West Michigan stated "Third party verification programs like LEED ensure the community that construction was intentional to consider the environmental and economic impacts of its footprint and beyond".

John Nash said "we are honored to receive this award. The Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees and our fire fighters were very committed to designing and building the best possible fire station for now and into the next fifty years - sustainability is one of Spring Lake Township's primary objectives".

Accepting the 2018 Certified Green Public Building Award from L to R: Fire Chief Brian Sipe, Township Supervisor John Nash, Township Manager Gordon Gallagher and Project Architect Tom Smith.

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.

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

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
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 24, 2018
December 31, 2018
January 1, 2019
April 19, 2019
May 27, 2019
July 4, 2019