Running with John…

Thank you to all who worked so hard and long to make the 2020 election in Spring Lake Township (SLT) run so smoothly. The team led by our Clerk Carolyn Boersma - honored as Michigan Clerk of the Year - showed they were up for the task of collecting, organizing, recording and tabulating the most ballots that have ever been recorded in an SLT election. Sue, Margaret, Darcie, Silvia and Mary were the people in the office helping with the work leading up to the election. Then there were all the precinct workers in our 6 precincts and in absentee ballot counting who worked for at least 16 straight hours to make sure every ballot was tabulated correctly. What a beautiful undertaking. Thanks to all those of you who voted. One of the results of the local election was that the SLT Board has a new member, Ernie Petrus. We welcome Ernie to the Board and look forward to working with him.

Do You Know about these Good Things in SLT?
- We have a new bike path section on Van Wagner between W Spring Lake Rd and 168th Ave.
- We have a very nice kayak launch on Little Black Lake, which we collaborated with Norton Shores to build.
- Rycenga Park has a re-built bathroom facility, 4 shelters, a swing and slide area for children, 2 soccer fields, a softball field, basketball courts and quiet trails.
- We have three housing developments in various stages of completion – Arcadia on 148th Ave, Spring Ridge on Van Wagner Road and The Villas next to Spring Lake Country Club. There is also a new townhouse development at the corner of 148th Ave and M104.

The Pandemic
Unfortunately, the pandemic is not only still with us, but hitting new levels of infection. We at the Township have been following all the health department recommendations and so far have been very fortunate. As an SLT resident, I am very happy to see well over 90% of the people in our area also following the guidelines.

Have a wonderful Christmas Season - in these tough times it is most important to remember all our blessings.

News from the Clerk

H. Carolyn Boersma, MMC, Township Clerk

This fall, 35 trees were planted in the cemetery on the far west by Railroad Ave and Beach Drive. Ten ornamental pear trees were planted along the fence on Beach Drive and 25 assorted maple trees, 5 large and 20 smaller, were planted. Next spring, 6 more large maples will be planted.
Thank you, Ron Lindquist

Ron Lindquist decided not to run for a fourth term as Spring Lake Township (SLT) Trustee. Ron served our Township for 18 years – as a Planning Commissioner from 2002 to 2016 and as a Trustee from 2004 to 2020. During Ron’s 18 years of service to our Township many things have been accomplished. Ron was involved in helping make a lot of those ideas into realities.

- We achieved Michigan Township Association’s highest award, the Township of Excellence Award, two consecutive times (the award is available every four years). There are over 1,250 townships in Michigan. SLT was the first to participate in the Township of Excellence program, and the first to achieve that award twice in a row. Ron was always supportive of this effort.
- We purchased a building on 174th Ave and converted into a very functional fire station for far less money than building a new station would cost. Ron was very instrumental in the purchase of this building.
- We built our beautiful new fire station on M104.
- We passed two ten-year bike path millages, which made it possible for us to build 7 new sections of bike path. We now have over 30 miles of bike paths in SLT.
- We were a significant part of the project to put the new sewer line across the Grand River — this was another project in which Ron was very involved.
- We collaborated with Spring Lake Village to agree to share one municipal building, to have one fire department, and one DPW department. Ron supported and endorsed all these positive changes.
- We collaborated with other area municipalities to develop a unified fire department response agreement — another project Ron was very in favor of doing.
- We collaborated with Norton Shores to build a kayak launch and parking lot on Little Black Lake.
- We totally re-modelled our Rycenga Park Bathrooms and added a new shelter.

Looking back, Ron can definitely say he made a significant difference in all the progress we have made as a township. At Ron’s last official board meeting on November 9th, Ron was given a Proclamation from the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners by their Chairman, Roger Bergman, and a Citation of Appreciation from the SLT Board Members.

Ron, we wish you well in the future, and we know the residents of Liberty Woods will very much appreciate your services as their newly elected board president.

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!

Master Plan Update

Lukas Hill, Community Development Director

Spring Lake Township is in the process of reviewing and updating the Master Land Use Plan in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Part of this process will help to ensure the remaining vacant lands with the Township are planned for logical uses given their location and access to essential utilities. So far, statistical analysis indicates that Spring Lake Township is clearly a desirable place to live. Currently, the Township has a population of approximately 15,000 residents and the U.S. Census projection is that the population will nearly double in the next 10 years. Of course there is only so much land to develop in the Township which could lessen that projection, but now is the time to think about how to possibly accommodate and guide that type of growth. If you wish to be part of the process, please contact Lukas Hill, Community Development Director, at LHill@springlaketwp.org. Information will also be posted on the Master Plan webpage as things progress: www.springlaketwp.org/ordinances/master-plan/.
Citizen Centric Report

Each year, the Finance and Treasurer’s office prepares a Citizen Centric Report. This report includes an annual update to the Governmental revenues and expenditures, Fire Department and Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office statistics, property tax information, and project updates. Below are two graphs included in that report. The revenues show an increase from the prior fiscal year in all categories listed. The expenses show a decrease or increase, varied across the services provided.

To see this report and more financial information, please visit our website at www.springlaketwp.org.

Governmental Revenues & Expenditures

Assessing News

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 20th of the year that the property is no longer eligible.

IMPORTANT!! You can NOT have two PRE’s unless you qualify AND fill out the correct paperwork. The additional form is called a Conditional Recind 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.

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

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Fire Department Update  

During this public health emergency, know your Spring Lake Fire Department continues to serve our community. To aid in providing quick and safe service, consider these simple steps when faced with a medical, fire or other emergency.

Don’t be afraid to call 911 early in an emergency. In a true emergency every second counts and early intervention can make all the difference for a positive outcome. Answer all questions and follow the 911 dispatchers’ instructions. They are trained to screen patients for symptoms of COVID-19. Having COVID-19 does not delay service, but with first responders informed, they can respond prepared to provide good service.

The 911 dispatcher may ask you to meet first responders outside. If able, this action will help protect everyone involved while ensuring a quick response.

If your health allows, please have a mask on when first responders arrive. This simple act helps limit the spread COVID-19 and helps responders to continue to serve our community.

Don’t call 911 if you have general questions about COVID-19. There are many community resources available including the Ottawa County Department of Public Health website at www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/coronavirus.htm. Calling 911 may not help answer your question and may delay service for those in real need.

Your Spring Lake Fire Department is committed to providing the best service possible for our community. By taking these steps, you help us continue to serve and make our community a safe place to live, work and enjoy.

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. Note that the Township will plow the bike paths. Although drivers will do their best to avoid leaving snow in driveways, it is inevitable that some snow may be left in a driveway.

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, 2020  
December 31, 2020  
January 1, 2021  
April 2, 2021  
May 31, 2021