Running with John...

The pandemic has not yet ended. I am sure we are all way past tired of the whole thing but I cannot imagine what the people in the health care system are feeling through all this – they definitely have to be our heroes. I am amazed how flexible our area schools and teachers have been. Fortunately, through the pandemic things have gone pretty well in the Spring Lake Township government – thanks to the efforts of many and sound advanced financial planning. Please shop locally - our merchants need our support.

Houses are going up everywhere in the Township – Spring Ridge, Arcadia, Spring Lake Villas, Spring Lake Townhomes, The Sanctuary, Wildwood Springs and by many individual home owners. I assure you Township officials are watching and maintaining our high standards.

Just so everyone understands – all the bridge work around US31 and M104 will be halted until after Labor Day. There will be construction before Memorial Day and after Labor Day for the next two years. Other road work in our area: Savidge Street will have major re-surfacing work done this summer. Twenty-nine Township residential roads will have a black mat coating applied – scheduled for the end of June or early July. Traffic will be restricted to one lane during that process but no roads will be closed. Each road will be completed in one day or less.

The SLT Board spent a long time through the winter months discussing possible no-wake options for the Grand River. After many Board discussions and significant public input it was determined that the area on the Grand River known as Indian Channel will be no-wake for this summer. What happens in future summers will be determined by water levels as was the case this year. The no-wake regulations in Spring Lake have not changed.

The Township Board and MDOT both really like roundabouts. It has been proven roundabouts improve the traffic flow and reduce accident totals. With all this in mind, we are working toward building a roundabout at the intersection of M104 and 148th. We have already had a traffic engineer tell us about traffic counts and roundabout designs for that intersection. This is definitely not something that will happen overnight – 2 to 3 years would be positive thinking. In the center of the roundabout, we want to build a special entryway to the Township. We will host public input meetings on the roundabout topic as we get closer.

Have a great summer and hopefully enough people will decide to get vaccinated that things will open up this summer. My wife and I have had both of our shots.

News from the Clerk

Cemetery Rules

There have been many questions about cemetery rules. The complete ordinance is found in the Township Code of Ordinances Section 10, available on our website. A map of the cemetery with information about burials is also available on our website.

Plantings and Shrubs: Planting items on graves is prohibited. Only the Township may plant in the cemetery. The Township has a regular tree-planting program. If you would like a tree located near your grave, contact me for information.

Flowers and Urns: Real or artificial flowers are allowed in flower urns only, and must be secured. Urns will be turned over after November 1, and reinstalled after April 1. Shephard’s hooks are not allowed.

Irrigation: The irrigation system does not water the urns.

If you have plantings in an urn, please make plans to keep them watered.

Sale of Gravesites: Graves are sold by the Township at prices established by the Township Board. No gravesite may be transferred to another person without prior written approval of the Township Clerk. Gravesites you do not plan to use may be returned to the Township and you will be refunded what you paid.

Graves: Graves may have one full burial and one cremation burial, or six cremation burials.

Headstones: Only one headstone is allowed per grave, even for graves with multiple burials. Allowed sizes for headstones can be found in the ordinance.

If you have additional questions about cemetery operations, please contact me at 616-844-2101 or cboersma@springlaketwp.org.
Planning Update

On May 13, 2021, the Spring Lake Township Recreation Committee hosted a community engagement event at Water Tower Park, which is located at the intersection of W. Spring Lake Road and Van Wagoner Road. The goal was to gain input from the community on preferred future uses of Water Tower Park and to review a few draft concepts. Over 50 people were in attendance and offered a wide variety of comments. In general, there was consensus that the park should have basic improvements including a better parking lot, restrooms, and signage. A variety of other ideas were shared that will be considered by the Township and which could be part of a grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in 2022.

A new bike path will be installed along the south side of M104 from 148th Ave to Krueger St. and 152nd Ave in the summer of 2021. This will be completed along with the road work on M104 involving the installation of a new center turn lane.

Residences that are using Bill Payment for Tax and Utility Billing:

Spring Lake Township has recently switched our banking to Horizon Bank and will no longer be with TCF Bank. If this applies to you, please verify and update any necessary information to the following address to make sure we receive your payment.

Spring Lake Township
PO Box 30516
Lansing, MI 48909-8016
Please list your account number in the bill pay information

Please contact the Finance Department at (616)844-2113 with any questions that may arise.

Visit www.springlaketwp.org to sign up for the Township e-mail newsletter!
Join over 1000 of your neighbors and receive updates 2 times per month.
Behind the Front Counter – Important Details

I know that it has been a while since we have encouraged residents to visit the Township offices. The next time you are here, I would encourage you to look straight ahead toward the wall behind the receptionist. What you will see are several awards that your Township has received. These awards represent a commitment to excellence in local government going back more than 20 years. Here is what is on the table:

2001 “Excellence in Intergovernmental Relations” presented by the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) for Spring Lake Township’s commitment to working cooperatively with our neighboring governmental units.

2010 “Best Practices Award” presented by the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association for Spring Lake Township’s Master Land Use Plan and the process that went into the document.

2016 “Township of Excellence Award” presented by the Michigan Townships Association for meeting a comprehensive list of best practices in local governance during the 2012-2016 Board term. Note: There are 1,240 Townships in Michigan. Spring Lake Township was the first to receive this award and is still one of only 3 to have ever reached this designation.

2018 “LEED Gold Certification” presented by the US Green Building Council for sustainable design and construction of Fire Station #1 at the corner of M104 and Fruitport Road.

2018 “Recognition of Support” presented by Grand Haven for the Township’s support of the development of the Re-Imagination Station play area.

2020 “Township of Excellence Award” presented by the Michigan Townships Association for meeting a comprehensive list of best practices in local governance during the 2016-2020 Board term. Note: Spring Lake Township was the first to receive this award twice.

Many people come in to the Township Offices to pay a bill, get a permit or to get information. I hope that the next time you are in the office you take a moment to look, with pride, at the recognition that your Township has received for our efforts to provide excellence in service to you. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff and we hope that our commitment to excellence shines through every day.

If you would like to set up a time to discuss any Township issues, please send me an email: GGallagher@SLTwp.org. I am actively setting up 15-minute resident meetings either in person or virtually. Please feel free to reach out on any concerns that you have, or if you would like to pass along positive feedback as well. Thank you for letting me serve you, as your Township Manager.

Sheriff’s Office Update

Summer is rapidly approaching and construction on US31 is causing an increase of traffic on M104 / Cleveland St, between Spring Lake and Nunica. The Sheriff’s Office wants to remind everyone that speed and passing violations will be strictly monitored and enforced. The speed limit on this roadway is 55mph and passing on the right is illegal. Spring Lake Township, Crockery Township, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), along with the Sheriff’s Office are committed to increasing the safety of motorists that travel this corridor. The Sheriff’s Office will be actively patrolling the area to provide education and enforcement. Please drive in a courteous manner, be patient, wear your safety belt, stay off your cell phone, and remain vigilant.

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!
Grilling Safety Tips

There’s nothing like outdoor grilling. It’s one of the most popular ways to cook food. But a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. Grills can be very hot, causing burn injuries.

The Spring Lake Fire Department offers these tips from the National Fire Protection Agency in the hope that you have a fun and safe grilling experience.

SAFETY TIPS
- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, including deck railings. Place the grill out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grates and from any trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

Assessing News

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 tax bills and assessment change notices.

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: dnorth@springlaketwp.org and hsingleton@springlaketwp.org.

Our website: http://www.springlaketwp.org/departments/assessing-department/

According to the Township Code, all premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth (including grass) in excess of 6 inches. Please keep the grass in the front, side and back yards cut to avoid a notice of violation.

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 5, 2021
September 6, 2021
November 25, 2021
November 26, 2021