Running with John…

Why Spring Lake Township is such a Great Place to Live

1. Spring Lake Township has achieved the Michigan Townships Association’s Township of Excellence Award three times in a row – an accomplishment none of the other 1,240 townships in Michigan have ever been able to achieve.

2. We have an Excellent Fire Department
   - Very well qualified fire people to handle fire and health emergencies
   - Two great fire stations, neither of which was built with additional tax dollars
   - Modern, efficient equipment

3. Full time Police Officers for our schools and our community

4. A very good water and sewer system – at the lowest combined area wide rate

5. Good roads with no additional road millage

6. Excellent Collaboration: Shared Municipal Building, shared DPW Department, shared tax collection, shared meeting building, and an excellent area-wide mutual aid municipal fire system

7. Exemplary Financial Status – always good audit reports, with no legacy indebtedness

8. An Excellent Bike Path System – over 27 total miles of bike paths all supported by a voted millage

9. An Outstanding park – Rycenga Park – with many facilities for a wide range of outdoor activities for people of all age groups

10. High Achieving Schools, welcoming churches, and a highly rated library

11. Outstanding Natural Beauty – including Lake Michigan, Spring Lake and the Grand River

News from the Clerk

Redistricting and Voter Information Cards

Redistricting for election purposes takes place every 10 years. The process has been completed and new voter information cards have been sent to every registered voter in the Township.

Please review your card carefully—districts have changed. The Township is now part of

US Congressional District 3
State Senate District 31
State Representative District 88

Our Township has two districts assigned for county commissioners. Precinct 5 voters are part of County Commissioner District 9. The rest of the Township is part of County Commissioner District 10.

These district changes mean you may be seeing different candidates on your ballot than you have in the past.

If you have additional questions about redistricting or voting, please contact me at 616-844-2101 or cboersma@springlaketwp.org.

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

Spring Lake Township has earned the Michigan Association’s Township of Excellence Award for the past three Board terms in a row. There are over 1240 townships in Michigan. Only two of those Michigan Townships have earned this very high award twice in a row, and only 12 total townships have ever achieved this challenging award level once.

Spring Lake Township has very good elected leaders and many excellent employees. We are also blessed with many, many local citizens who step forward as volunteers. Here is a list of our volunteers who provide so much help to our township.

Planning Commissioners:
Greg Latsch  Jack Ketchum  Russ Tiles  Harry Dyck  Sarah Somers  Kelly Clark  Jerry Rabideau

Zoning Board of Appeals Members:
George Postmus  Larry Mierle  Jack Ketchum  Ellen delaRosa-Pearn  Tom TenCate  Steve Trocke

Board of Review Members:
John Pearn  Jim Mulder  Harry Dyck  Betty Anguiano

Recreation Committee Members:
Rachel Manzer  Tim Morrow  Nick Barbu  Gera Peel  Lynn Cherney  Laura Okkonen  Shari Weber

Cemetery Board Members:
Bob Shay  Jim Koster  Carolyn Boersma

As you can see some of these volunteers serve on multiple committees/boards. Many of them have volunteered to serve for lots of years, even decades. This year, much to our disappointment, Dave Rumple, who has served on our Planning Commission for twenty years, many as the chairman, resigned his post—he moved out of the township. Dave’s leadership clearly demonstrated how important it was to him to help our community. What a great testament to local volunteerism. Thank you very much Dave for all your time and commitment!

Assessing News

Assessing Department’s Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. Taxable Value ~ Change of Assessment notices (sent out in February) show any increases in overall value and changes to the taxable value. The values are NOT in tax dollars. The increase in value needs to be multiplied by the millage rate for your school district in order to calculate the actual taxes. This information is provided, so you are aware of the values that the upcoming Summer tax bill will be based on.

2. Forms ~ All forms are available on our website (www.springlaketwp.org) under the Department Heading, then Assessing Tab. Most of the forms you can fill-in and print or download and then email, mail, or drop off to us.

3. Conditional Rescind ~ Must file this form if you bought a second home and have not sold the first one. You can only have one Principal Residence Exemption, but if you file the Conditional Rescind you can have a second one while you are trying to sell your unoccupied first home.

4. Uncapping ~ This term means that the assessed and taxable value will become the same number the year after the sale. For example: 2022 AV 100,000 and TV 50,000, purchased property April 2022. The year after value increases with market to the following 2023 AV 120,000 and TV 120,000. This means that the taxes will be higher than the previous owner’s taxes. Example: if you buy a house in February 2022, your taxes and taxable value will increase the following July 2023 not the current July 2022.

5. Tax Day ~ To the Assessing office, Tax Day is December 31 of each year. This means if you build or remove anything from your property before December 31 it will be changed for the next calendar year tax bill. Example: I put in a pool December 15, 2022, so I will be taxed for it the next July and December 2023 bill. If I build the pool in March 2022, I don’t pay for it until the July and December 2023 bill.

Please review the instructions for each form and their specific details and qualifications.

Our direct department number is (616) 844-2108. Our e-mail addresses are:
dnorth@springlaketwp.org and hsingleton@springlaketwp.org.
“I hope I never have to call 911”

Although, we like to think we will never need emergency services, the truth is your fire department responds to an average of 1,200 calls per year. This equals about 3 calls per day. So, what happens if you ever need emergency medical or fire services?

When calling 911, you will talk to a dispatcher who is trained at asking a series of questions based on the type of emergency being reported. The dispatcher is also prepared to guide the caller through instructions. This information will give help during a medical emergency or direct people to safety if needed. Once the dispatcher has enough information, they will begin the process of sending the appropriate responders and equipment. This may occur at any time in the call, even as they continue to ask questions. The dispatcher may also stay on the phone with the caller until responders arrive.

Spring Lake currently has 23 firefighters which includes 4 full time & 19 part paid personnel. Station 1 on Fruitport Road is always manned with at least 1 person 24 hours per day. Our goal is to have an average of 3 to 5 personnel respond to medical emergencies and 8 or more for any fires. This is accomplished by communicating not only on radios but with the assistance of emergency applications on our phones. When dispatched, personnel respond immediately from the station along with part paid personnel responding from their home to the emergency or to one of our two stations to retrieve additional equipment. In the evenings, part paid personnel take shifts with basic Life Support vehicles staged at their homes. Many times, having this unit out in the community will not only decrease our response time but allows for patient care to begin much earlier.

Remember, in an emergency, time is critical. If you have an emergency, don’t be afraid to call 911. The members of the Spring Lake Fire Department proudly serve Spring Lake Township and the Village of Spring Lake. If you call, we will be there!

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!

Sheriff’s Office Update

Home Security Checks

Our community policing officer provides free vacation security checks to Township residents who will be away from their homes, businesses, or other facilities for a period of time. Deputies will periodically check the exterior of the property. This service is offered to deter potential burglars and provides additional security while your property is unoccupied.

Any resident who will be out of the area may use the program, whether you are leaving for a short time or if you will be gone for several months. To request a property check, please submit the Property Check Form at least two weeks prior to your departure. The form can be found on the Township website, under the Law Enforcement tab.

Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees

John Nash  Supervisor
H. Carolyn Boersma  Clerk
Jim Koster  Treasurer
Ellen delaRosa-Pearn  Trustee
Cathy Pavick  Trustee
Ernie Petrus  Trustee
Jerry Rabideau  Trustee

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, 2022
September 5, 2022
November 11, 2022
November 24, 2022
November 25, 2022