



CROSSWINDS

WWW.SPRINGLAKEVILLAGE.ORG

FALL 2016

Village Hall
102 W. Savidge
Spring Lake, MI
49456

P: 616-842-1393

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- **Village Manager**

Chris Burns

- **Village President**

Jim MacLachlan

- **Council Members**

Megan Doss

Mark Miller

Steve Nauta

Mark Powers

Joel Tepastte

Scott VanStrate

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Spring Lake Village



We are pleased to enclose with this issue of Crosswinds an illustration of some key elements of our financial condition for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017). You'll note that we now enjoy a very healthy Fund Balance which is almost **30%** of the General Fund Budget (up **43%** from 2012); our total millage of 10.36 mills is down **11%** from the amount levied in 2012 of 11.662 mills, and down 21% from the level of 13.16 mills back in 2004. We have succeeded in significantly reducing our bank and audit fees, while increasing our investment income over **320%** in a very low interest rate environment. Our debt level is significantly lower (down **31%**), and it continues to decline as we pay off previous indebtedness and enjoy the significant savings we realized through a re-funding of our bonded debt.

Our cost of public safety (police protection) is down **19%** since we contracted with Ottawa County to provide these services. We continue to enjoy a level of personal safety which is unparalleled (where serious crime is non-existent and property crimes are minimal). As you see the familiar black-and-white Sheriff's vehicle driving through your neighborhood, be sure to wave and thank our deputies for helping to make this the ultra-safe community that it is.

Our tax dollars also support 32 acres of parks (Central Park, Mill Point Park, Tanglefoot Park, Lakeside Beach, Lakeside Trail), 12 miles of streets, 16 miles of sidewalks and bike paths, street lighting throughout the Village, storm sewer maintenance, tree planting and trimming, and winter plowing of streets and sidewalks.

Our collaborative efforts (including the contracting of planning services, zoning services, and the services of our Treasurer/Finance Director) continue to generate operational savings. Shared space in the Village Hall now generates significant additional income and our citizens now experience a noticeable improvement in convenience and customer service. This year we have also received bike path millage from Spring Lake Township and road millage from Ottawa County for the first time, along with a higher level of constitutional revenue sharing from the State of Michigan. We will continue to carefully monitor our expenses, generate additional revenues where practicable, and always be good stewards of our citizens' tax dollars

On a personal note, may I say that it has been a privilege to be your President for the past 5 years. And, of course, your Council and the Village administration and staff will all continue our unwavering commitment to make this Village of ours the very best it can be and a place we can all continue to be proud to call home.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed report, or any Village matters, please contact me, any member of Council, or the Village Manager at 842-1393.

Jim MacLachlan has served as your Village President since January, 2012. Jim is retiring from local government in order to spend more time with his family. His term runs through the end of 2016. Thank you for your selfless service Jim!

DON'T FLUSH MEDICATIONS!

If you have unused medications (prescriptions or over-the-counter, including pet meds) please do NOT flush them down the toilet. Place the medications in a plastic zipper bag and dispose of them in our secure drop box located in the lobby of the Spring Lake Village Hall during regular business hours. The meds are incinerated by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. Items that DO NOT belong in the drop box:



needles, sunscreen, creams & ointments



ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS!



1. Don't forget to request your Absentee Ballot from Spring Lake Township at 842-1340 before you head south.
2. Please give us 24 hours notice prior to your return to Spring Lake so that we may schedule your water turn-on. Someone MUST be present before our DPW will restore water service to your property.
3. Taxes **and** water bills are now payable via ACH. The payment is deducted from your account on the due date. No more worries about a late payment!

TRICK-OR-TREAT!

October 31st

6-8 p.m. in residential areas

4-6 p.m. in the business district

(be sure to look for the pumpkin in the window for participating merchants)

Household Hazardous Waste

The Ottawa County Health Department has a Resource Recovery Service Center for the collection of household hazardous waste. For more information, call 616-393-5645 or visit www.miottawa.org.

STREET LIGHT OUTAGE?

Is there a street light out or flickering in your neighborhood? Call Consumers Energy at 1-800-477-5050 to report it or go online www.consumersenergy.com.

Sign up for ACH Bill Payment

It's easy, it's free and your payment will never be late again! Funds are deducted from your account **on the due date**. You can cancel at any time. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. This is a great option for snowbirds to consider for water bills or taxes. Call Mary at 842-1393 if you have questions regarding ACH payments.



SLFD FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 13, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Spring Lake Fire Station #1

148th Ave, just south of M-104 (Cleveland)



A family fun night filled with food, prizes and learning about fire prevention and safety. There will be hot dogs, popcorn, chips and drinks for all! Have fun meeting your firefighters and learning about many of your local emergency teams. Watch as we do a live burn house demonstration to show just how quickly a fire can spread in your home. You can even go on a fire truck ride!



2016

Community and Financial Performance



Financial Health

Our financial fitness has greatly improved since 2012.

2016 GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

\$1,351,000

These budget indicators tell the story:

Interest earnings: \$2,235 up to \$7,342



Bank fees: \$6,571 down to \$1,644



Foreclosures: 37 down to 8



General Fund Budget	\$1,351,000	1%
Fund Balance	\$401,835	43%
Total Taxable Value	\$118,552,983	10%
Average Residential Home Value	\$111,688	30%
FDIC-backed Investments	\$1,052,295	321%
Bonded debt	\$1,350,788	31%
Audit Fees	\$11,000	46%

We are realizing a \$269,295 savings over the life of the bonds due to a 2013 bond refunding.

Funding Our Services

Our tax rates are lower now than they were in 2004.

MILLAGE RATES

	2004	2016
Operations	10.48	9.54
Debt Service	2.68	.82



Quality of Life in Spring Lake

THE VILLAGE CONSISTS OF:

1,856
total acres

32 acres

park property

113 acres

tax-exempt
property



VILLAGE MAINTAINS:

5.32 miles

of major streets



7.13 miles

of local streets



3 miles

of non-motorized
pathways



13 miles

of sidewalks



Public Safety

Since 2013, we have reduced our cost of providing police protection for residents and visitors while preserving quality performance.



\$218.95

\$177.79

2013

2016

POLICE PROTECTION
COST PER CAPITA

\$633,783

\$72,524

2013

2016

POLICE UNFUNDED
PENSION

\$2,457,932

\$38,923

2013

2016

OTHER POST
EMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS

ISO FIRE RATING

Based on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the best rating. Spring Lake's higher rating over 2014 was the result of improvements to the Village and Township's water system.



Prior to 2014



2014 to present

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

EMS



**4 minutes
31 seconds**

200 total
incidents
in 2016

FIRE



**6 minutes
22 seconds**

40 total
incidents
in 2016



AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT FORM

The Village of Spring Lake offers an Automatic Bill Payment Program for the water and sewer utility bills and tax bills. Once you enroll in the program, your bills will be paid directly from either your checking or savings account. Payments will be drawn from your account on the due date.

Terms:

Balance due is withdrawn on the due date.

If NSF, the enrollee is responsible for an NSF fee of \$40 as well as late fees and possibly shut off.

If ACH does not have sufficient funds two (2) times, the Automatic Payment Plan will be revoked.

Once enrolled, the Village must be notified IN WRITING when/if the enrollee wishes to change or stop the automatic payment.

Benefits:

Payments are not delayed or lost in the mail.

You save money on postage.

Payments are made on the scheduled date so there are no worries of late fees or possible shut offs.

Bills get paid while you are out of town, on vacation or gone for the winter season.

Automatic Bill Payment is simple to initiate.

Water/Sewer Bill _____ Tax Bill _____

To enroll in the Automatic Bill Payment program, complete this form and return with a voided check (for account verification) to:

Village of Spring Lake
Attn: Mary Paparella – Water Dept.
102 W. Savidge Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Paparella at Village Hall during regular business hours. (616) 842-1393.

Name: _____ Service Address: _____

Bank Name: _____ Bank Routing Number (9 digit number): _____

Account Number: _____ Account Type - Checking or Savings (circle one)

Next billing ACH should be effective: ____/____/____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____ Paperless? Yes No (circle one)

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

The Village of Spring Lake will provide the fall leaf pickup program from October 24th thru November 23rd. **Leaves must be raked onto the street and off of the lawn, except for the leaves on M-104 (Savidge Street) ~ leaves must be bagged.** The hose on the vacuum truck is limited in length; therefore piles on the lawn are hard to reach. Please do not rake twigs into the leaf piles as they damage the hose.



Window Decorating Contest

The Village of Spring Lake's DDA is once again sponsoring a Holiday Decorating Contest for the downtown merchants. This year the DDA has chosen a theme of Peace, Hope & Love for decorating ideas. Judging by Spring Lake Village Council & the DDA will be held on Monday, December 12th at 6 p.m. To register or for more information, please contact Mary Paparella at 842-1393 or at mary@springlakevillage.org.



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Village Hall Holiday Hours

Village Hall will be closed on the following dates:

November 11 Veteran's Day
November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving
December 23 & 26 Christmas
December 30(p.m.) New Year's Eve
January 2 New Year's Day



FALL CLEAN UP

The Village will conduct its fall clean-up on 10/05/16. Property owners are responsible for any trash left on the curb after 10/05. The following items will NOT be collected as part of this program:

- Tree stumps, automotive parts, concrete, black-top, batteries, paints/solvents/cleaners.
- Construction material.
- Pipe will be only accepted in 6" or shorter lengths.
- Only one appliance, which cannot use Freon, will be collected per address.
- Place numerous items in one container, such as a cardboard box.
- Container must weigh less than 35 pounds.
- Call 842-1393 for more information.