FROM THE DESK OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT MARK POWERS

Recent events drew our community’s attention to immediate and pressing problems. Now, businesses are reopening, family and friends are gathering together again, and our community tries to resume our prior patterns. For the Village of Spring Lake staff, that means reopening Village Hall, resuming normal work schedules, and addressing municipal needs that existed prior to February 2020—needs which stubbornly refused to go away, regardless of recent events. One of Spring Lake’s most pressing needs is repairing parts of its 100 year old water and sewer system.

Our great-grandfathers’ generation installed some parts of Spring Lake’s water and sewer systems when my grandfather was a small child. Those pottery, cast iron, and (in some cases) wood pipe systems are now showing their age. Physics, chemistry, and time conspired to do their destructive work, and those parts are dissolving. This is unsurprising, since nothing we build lasts forever. In anticipation of this, village personnel started work years ago, trying to develop a reasonably comprehensive plan to address the inevitable decay of our town’s pipes and drains.

For the past five years Spring Lake Village personnel and engineers scanned, scoped, and otherwise studied our town’s underground water and sewer lines. During those five years, we sent pipe-traveling robots through our town’s water system and sewers, giving village engineers precise GPS locations and video feeds of the town’s hidden infrastructure. DPW personnel inspected buried pipe and drain systems so old we were not even sure where those systems were located. (Our town’s historical plans and infrastructure maps simply did not go back that far. But we knew the pipes existed, because water and sewage eventually got where engineers apparently intended.) Our department workers tested fire hydrant water pressure around the village, to determine which ones would still feed Spring Lake Fire Department’s trucks water in the event of a nearby fire. We found a surprising number of non-functioning hydrants around the village. Today, we know more about the location, state, and needs of the underground infrastructure than at any time in the past.

With the survey results, and knowing so much more about the systems’ condition, our town’s engineers and maintenance professionals recently shared their grim conclusion with Spring Lake Village Council: if Spring Lake Village wants to repair its water and sewer systems, Spring Lake Village has to pay $25 million over twenty years to fix that infrastructure. That is the expected price if we start now. Further delay likely increases that cost.

Clean drinking water and healthy sanitation systems are among our municipalities’ chief responsibilities. For that reason, Spring Lake will begin repairing and replacing the most aged, failing parts of our drinking water and sewer systems. Spring Lake’s Village Council made a preliminary determination to start work on the initial 4-5 most necessary projects in Spring 2021. Each year thereafter, work will continue. That work will, we expect, continue past a time when any current Village Council member remains on that board. Our hope is that we can lay out a sensible plan for subsequent Village Councils to continue.

The cost of the planned improvements and repairs will be amortized over 40 years. This is appropriate, since the work we begin not only assures us continued clean water and sewage disposal, but also benefits people living in Spring Lake 100 years from now. I see all of this as our endorsing an anticipated future, despite recent problems. We plan and build for the next 100 years, much like people who lived in Spring Lake when my grandfather was a small child.

Village of Spring Lake customer now have the option to have their Village Water and Sewer bills emailed to them. Contact Lori Spelde at lori@springlakevillage.org or 616-842-1393 to have your Village water/sewer bills delivered by email.
Impact on Water/Sewer Bills

Village water/sewer rates will be increased in future years to cover the cost of the new force main and other improvements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTED RESIDENTIAL WATER/SEWER RATES*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.84 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on 5/8" meter and 18,000 gallon/quarter; future rates will vary based on the timing and cost of future water and sewer projects.

What Flooding and High Ground Water Means for Our Sewer System

In recent years, flooding and high ground water has increased the Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) into the sanitary sewer system. I/I is water that enters the sanitary system through damaged or defective pipe and improper connections from private property sources such as sump pumps and downspouts. The sanitary sewer is designed to handle sanitary waste only and does not have capacity to handle additional flow from storm water or ground water. When I/I enters the village sewer system, treatment plants become less efficient, collection systems become strained and the potential for backup or overflow increases. The collection and treatment of I/I is also a costly burden for the sewer system and all of its users. If your sump pump or downspout are connected to the sanitary sewer system please take action to disconnect.

Water Conservation Versus Water Efficiency

With increases in water & sewer bills fast approaching, now is a great time to contemplate how to use less water.

If you are a commercial water customer and you irrigate, you may want to calculate potential savings if you were to install an irrigation meter. There are pros (not paying sewer charges) and cons (paying a yearly ready-to-serve charge) associated with the installation of an irrigation meter. Since each lawn uses a different amount of water, only you can do the cost/benefit analysis. If you would like the cost associated with purchasing an irrigation meter, please contact Village Hall at 842-1393 and ask for Lori. Since residential customers receive a summer sewer credit, they do not qualify for a separate irrigation meter.

Here are a couple of good articles regarding conservation:
https://www.watercalculator.org/footprints/water-conservation-efficiency/
https://www.homeadvisor.com/r/home-water-conservation/

Four Months of Curb Side Brush Pick-Up Starts Now

Monthly curb side brush pick-up during the summer months of June, July, August and September will occur the 3rd Monday of the month. June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21.

- Brush must be curbside by 7:00am
- Limbs can be no larger than 6" in diameter
- Keep limbs no longer than 6’ in length
- Pile can be no more than 10’ wide and 4’ high
- Stack with cut ends facing the street

NOTE: This brush pick-up does not apply to lot clearing or tree removals. Direct any questions to the Village at 616.842.1393.
Spring Lake Farmer’s Market is Open
Open-air market managed by the Chamber of Commerce features seasonal produce, fresh cut flowers, plants, breads, jams, jellies, kettle corn, garden items and more!
WHEN: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Harvest Bible parking lot
SEASON: June 4 through October 8

Household Hazardous Waste
The Ottawa County Health Department has a Resource Recovery Service Center for the collection of household hazardous waste. Call 616-393-5645 or visit www.miottawa.org for more.

Reminder: DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS
Do you have unused medications (prescriptions or over-the-counter, including pet meds)? Please do NOT flush them down the toilet. Place them in a zipped plastic bag and dispose of them during regular business hours in the secure lobby dropbox at the fire station: 106 N. Fruitport Road. Please - no needles, sunscreen, creams or ointments.

2019 Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available
Online at www.springlakevillage.org
Call 616-842-1393 to receive a paper copy.

Water Service Disconnection
Avoid a 10% penalty. Pay your bill by the due date. The charges for water turn-off/turn-on for non-payment are $114.14 during business hours and $157.04 after hours. Rates are adjusted every year in July.

Water and Sewer Emergencies
If you have a water line break or sewer back-up, call 616-842-1393 during normal business hours. After hours, call 1-616-844-2104. The Village does not credit for leaks or wasted water. Call us right away if you suspect a leak.

Snowbirds
We need 24 hours notice to turn your service on or off, and someone must be present when we restore water service.

Garage Sale Signs
Garage sale signs are permitted according to Ordinance 17.5(6):
• Limit to one (1) on-premise location and three (3) off-premise locations
• Locate on private property
• Limit to 4 square feet in size; sign may be two-sided
• Affix to the ground; must be freestanding
• Display no longer than 3 days prior to sale; remove when sale ends
Failure to meet these conditions may result in your signs being removed without notice.

Street Light Outages
Is there a street light out or flickering in your neighborhood? Report it to Consumers Energy: 1-800-477-5050 or online at consumersenergy.com.

2020 Spring Clean Up is ON!
Kueth’s has rescheduled the 2020 Spring Clean Up for Wed. June 17th. Have your things curbside by 7:00 a.m.
Announcements

Community Emergency Notifications
Sign up online to receive community emergency notifications via text or email. Go to www.Nixle.com and enter 49456 to get on the list.

Non-Emergency Number for Police
Want to speak to an Ottawa County Sheriff’s Deputy, but it’s not a 9-1-1 emergency? Call 1-800-249-0911 to speak to a dispatcher.

Trees Available for Your Right of Way
Thanks to North Bank Community Fund, Spring Lake Rotary and the Victoria Verplank Memorial Fund:
• Several tree species are available
• Village arborist will approve planting location
• SLV will plant the trees
• Residents must water and fertilize all season
Contact Darcie at 616-842-1393; or dbenter@springlaketwp.org

2020 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
Independence Day ~ July 3
Labor Day ~ September 7
Veterans Day ~ November 11
Thanksgiving ~ November 26-27
Christmas ~ December 24-25
New Year’s ~ Dec 31 & January 1

CONTACT US!
Ask billing questions, sign up for our email announcements, enroll in automatic bill paying, update your account information, get an explanation of rates, make service changes or report water emergencies:

Phone: 616-842-1393
Website: springlakevillage.org
Mail: 102 W. Savidge

After-hours water/sewer emergency:
1-616-844-2104

Find and like us on Facebook!
Spring Lake Village – Government @villageofspringlake