



# CROSSWINDS

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SUMMER 2014

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- **Village Manager**

Chris Burns

- **Village President**

Jim MacLachlan

- **Council Members**

Dave Bennett

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## President's Message ~

At midnight on June 30, the Spring Lake/Ferrysburg Police Department ended its 25-year-old joint operating agreement and transitioned into a new partnership with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department. In a solemn ceremony honoring the officers for their devotion and service to our citizens, all of the Department's officers retired their old badges and uniforms, donning the new badges and distinctive brown uniforms of the County Sheriff Department. The oath of office was administered by Sheriff Gary Rosema, and a new era in public safety began for our two communities.

All of the former SL/FB police officers are now members of the new force, and they will continue to serve and protect the citizens of our two communities as they had previously. While the number of officers, patrol cars, and support staff will remain the same, the additional services provided by the Sheriff's department will significantly enhance our public safety profile: Marine Patrol, K-9 Patrol, detective services, WEMET, and community policing services will all serve to enhance the quality of life we collectively enjoy here in the Village.

Furthermore, we will now experience a substantial annual cost savings which will be applied to the reduction and ultimate elimination of unfunded pension liabilities for our current and retired officers. Additional savings will be realized with the elimination of future retirement health care costs. These substantive changes will allow us to confront and resolve the significant shortfall that had threatened our long-term fiscal stability. Your Village Council is firmly committed to maintaining our outstanding level of public safety, while doing so in a fiscally prudent manner.

Our sincere thanks to all who dedicated their considerable efforts and energy to this endeavor. Although the process was protracted, emotional, and occasionally somewhat controversial, the outcome was certainly worth the effort. We are especially grateful to our dedicated and devoted public servants who will continue to serve and protect our citizens and the quality of life we all enjoy here in the Village.

As always, we welcome your questions and comments. Please contact village Manager Chris Burns or myself at 842-1393, or send us an e-mail at [christine@springlakevillage.org](mailto:christine@springlakevillage.org) or [villageprez@gmail.com](mailto:villageprez@gmail.com).

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Jim MacLachlan  
Village President

