



# Township of Spring Arbor Michigan

February 2022

We are pleased to have this opportunity to communicate with our Spring Arbor Township community. While the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to linger on, we were fortunate to experience some normalcy in everyday life and events. We held a parade, and Clean Up/Trash day, opened parks for sporting events and leisure, and built a trail and more. Your township officials and employees continued to provide services. First responders (Police and Fire), Water and Sewer operations, Building, Zoning, Parks and Cemetery continued as “essential operations”. Our Fire Department responded to over 1000 calls! We reached an all-time record not only for us, but in terms of fire service nationwide. We are thankful for everyone who works to make Spring Arbor a great community! 😊

**Clean Up/Trash and Recycle Day:** This event is returning by popular demand! It will be held, Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 9am to 12 noon. Popularity of our event grows every year as we process literally “tons” of trash, metal, electronics and documents. Spring Arbor University parking lots provide our fast turnaround for those dropping materials off. We have had some wonderful volunteers who reduced our wait times and make the event a huge success. We will return to the parking lots of SAU, right off M-60 between Chapel Rd. and Ogle Ave. You will enter off Ogle and exit onto Chapel Rd so please watch for signs and details. Face Book and our web site will provide additional information as the event gets closer. **We need volunteers to make this event a success!** If you or your business, organization or church group can help us on the day of the event, please send us an email or call us. [dherlein@springarbor.org](mailto:dherlein@springarbor.org) or 750-2800 x201. Look forward to seeing you May 21, 2022.

**Memorial Day Parade:** After a two year hiatus, the parade returned to Main Street in 2021 with appreciative crowds and a record number of parade participants. We hope to build on that this year. Plan to join us May 30<sup>th</sup> for this annual event. We need volunteers to make this happen. We need you! We need floats, bands, civic groups and more to join us. Please contact the township ([julia@springarbor.org](mailto:julia@springarbor.org)) if you can help us. Follow us on the township’s Face Book page and Spring Arbor Memorial Day Parade page as well as our web site for more information as we get close to Memorial Day. Look forward to seeing you!

**Annual Pancake Breakfast:** Our Fire Department will host its Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday May 7, 2022. This is a great community event that supports our Fire Department. We hope to see you there!!!

**Teft Road Connector Trail:** Families now have a safe non-motorized walkway and bike route to access the Falling Waters Trail head as well as Lime Lake County Park. Work was completed in 2021 and the trail is being used. The trail also provides users of the Falling Waters Trail access to Spring Arbors restaurants and businesses. A Dedication will be planned for later this year!

**Local Roads:** We have completed all local roads. The last two roads (Cox and Mathews gravel portions) were finished in 2021. Our township now has no gravel public roads. Spring Arbor residents can now enjoy the best roads in Jackson County as we are the first township to complete the extreme makeover of all public local roads. This entire local roads project is being financed by a millage and bond sale that voters approved in May of 2017. The millage is assessed on the winter (December) tax bills only, in accordance with state law. The millage rate levied has been reduced from the original rate of 3.99 to 3.25 mills.

**Community Benches:** Stop, sit and visit. The idea for the benches came about while the M-60 planning was underway for the big rebuild done a few years ago. Our hope is to create a community where you can walk, stop if you’re tired or want to visit along the way. These benches are the choice for new seating in our parks and cemetery as well. For the last couple of years we have been able to obtain funding for 5 green benches that are die cut with “SPRING ARBOR” in the back of them. We currently have one in front of the township hall at Teft and Main St. Our ability to add benches is based on donations or grant moneys. We plan to place 4 more of these benches this spring/summer on Main St, along the sidewalks. If you would like to help with funding or hosting a bench please contact Supervisor Herlein. Thank-you to those who have donated towards this project.

**Traffic Circles Still Coming:** Dearing Rd at McCain is currently planned to become a “traffic circle” intersection. It is now scheduled for this summer and to be complete for the start of the school year. Currently two other circles are in design for Dearing Rd at the I-94 interchange in Sandstone Twp. (2023). These projects are being planned by JCDOT and MDOT and will accommodate buses, farm vehicles as well as truck traffic.

**Clerk’s Department:** It has been a while since the Township has had an election as there were none in 2021. We will be back in the swing during this calendar year. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is a special election date for mileages and such. Western School District is planning to have a millage on the ballot. Due to the sale and refurbishing of the Senior Center, we will need to find a new/temporary location for Precinct 1 voters for the May 2 election. We will have more information mailed to you later. August 2<sup>nd</sup> would be the next election. It is a primary for the Gubernatorial Election in November. On November 8<sup>th</sup> we decide on Governor, Secretary, US Senators and more. If you aren’t registered to vote, you may come into the office at any time to pick up an application or go to any Secretary of

State Branch Office and register or go to the Secretary of State website and apply on line. (That would be Michigan Voter Information Center <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us>.) If you have questions, we are always here to serve you.

**Office of the Treasurer:** More of you have taken advantage of online payments for property taxes and/or utility bills during the last couple of years. We offer convenient solutions for you to choose from including automatic payment options for your tax bills as well as utility bills. Forms to set these up can be found on the web site or at the township office. You can also have your utility bill emailed to you by stopping in at the township office to set this up. If you ever have any questions about tax bills, utility billing or any type of payment please contact us at 517-750-2800 Ext: 220 or email us at: [colleen@springarbor.org](mailto:colleen@springarbor.org) or [kathy@springarbor.org](mailto:kathy@springarbor.org). We also have drop boxes for making payments 24/7 and NO postage is required. One is in our driveway off M-60(Main St) so you can deposit from your car and the other is near the door into the township office. Our township website [www.springarbor.org](http://www.springarbor.org) has more information and forms for auto pay.

**Water Customers:** We will incur an increase in water rates again this year as our provider, has notified us of this increase. More stringent requirements from the EGLE/DEQ, along with increases in operating costs will require water rates to rise. To meet EGLE/DEQ compliance, our plan includes drilling wells in the township that will also prepare us for future growth. We continue talks with EGLE/DEQ, Summit Township and our engineers to provide for the best long term solutions for Spring Arbor's water needs.

**Sewer Customers:** The marketing of "wipes" being sold today might say "flushable" or sewer/septic safe; however, they pose a huge problem and cost for all sewer system operations. In fact most of the issues we have in our gravity system and grinder pump pressure systems are caused directly from the use of these wipes and grease. They do not break down and in fact bind together to cause blockage and failure of our pumps. Please do not flush any wipe of any kind into the toilet. The only item that goes into the toilet is toilet paper! Help us manage our costs of operating a sewer system and quite frankly backups of sewer for you and your neighbors. If you are on the grinder pump system, please be advised that these "canisters" are never to be buried, covered or recessed below the grade of the ground around them. Shrubs, rocks and trees should never be installed within 6 feet of canisters. Doing so makes it difficult to locate and **will prohibit township technicians from working on them.** The canister and electrical panel are to be in plain view for us to work on and access 24/7. They must be in eye shot of each other with no fences or obstructions. Please help us to help you!

**Fire Department:** We have openings on the Fire Department. If you have an interest contact Chief McEldowney at 750-2800 x240. Your community needs you. If you have a fire hydrant on your property would you help us? Please keep the snow clear in winter and the weeds and grass cut down in summer months. Burn Permits are **required** for open burning in the township. These are available at *No Charge* on the web site or in person at the township office. Please be considerate of others when burning, as smoke can be offensive or dangerous to your neighbors.

**A Note of Thanks:** Our community is grateful to the many people who serve others, volunteer or provide for facility and grounds improvements each year. I believe in part it's what makes Spring Arbor a great place to live! I am thankful for the people, businesses, churches, and suppliers who help us. Volunteers who step up to help with Memorial Day Parades, election workers, Trash/Clean Up Day, pick up roadside trash, assist with tire recycling collections, spruce up our cemetery, do spring clean-up in the park, fix bleachers, baseball fields, soccer goals, and put up Christmas decorations are all appreciated. This past year Emerald Lawn Service donated a Flag Pole assembly for our cemetery. It's a wonderful addition. Because of the flag pole donation a family is donating flags for all military branches that can be flown on the day of a veteran's funeral. We are grateful for those who donate towards our parade activities who wish anonymity; young men who work towards Eagle Scout status and their families and friends who provided for the return of the American Flags on M-60/Main Street for holidays, and the new steel flag markers on Fire Hydrants making it easier for our Fire Dept. to locate hydrants at night and in the snow; our Fire guys and volunteers who put up our Christmas décor and take it down; an electrician who donates time to keep our Christmas Decorations working in the cold, rain/snow and in darkness. To our paid on call firemen and women who responded to over 1099 runs in 2021 at all hours of the day and night, I am thankful! You are outstanding!! To Committee members, Planning Commission, Public Safety, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, who give up your evenings to provide guidance and expertise, you all make us great. So to all of you who are referenced above and those of you I have no doubt missed WE THANK-YOU! You are AMAZING people, friends, and neighbors. You are Spring Arbor Township!

We can always use more help! Please drop us a note, email or call.

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*This information is being mailed with annual assessment notices to minimize cost. We trust this information is helpful and welcome your comments and suggestions.*

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