



April 6, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring Lake Township board recognized for achievements

Delta Charter Township—Spring Lake Township in Ottawa County has the distinct honor of being the first township in Michigan to earn statewide recognition for its work to achieve excellence in numerous local government service areas.

The certificate of achievement recognizes Spring Lake Township's commitment to excellence and adherence to best practices in Election Administration, Assessment Administration, Tax Collection, Cemeteries, Transportation, and Land Use Management & Economic Development during the 2004-2008 township term of office. Board members serving during that time include Supervisor John Nash, Clerk Carolyn Boersma, Treasurer Lou Draeger, and Trustees Norma Cook, Ronald Lindquist, Lawrence Mierle and Robert Shay. The township manager is Gordon Gallagher. More than 13,000 people reside in the township.

The certificate of achievement is part of the "Township of Excellence" program created in late 2008 by the Michigan Townships Association, which represents the state's 1,240 townships. "Townships of Excellence" are defined as strong, vibrant communities governed by a township board that adheres to best practices to deliver quality programs and services to accomplish community-driven goals. A certificate of achievement in one or more areas is awarded to townships that complete a rigorous application process and successfully meet the high-level criteria in each area, as defined by the Association and its members.

"Michigan townships thrive because of the courage, commitment and vision of township boards that put forth the effort to learn what it takes to govern a township and put that knowledge into practice to benefit the residents whom they represent," said G. Lawrence Merrill, MTA executive director. "We

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commend Spring Lake Township and its dedicated officials for being the first township in the state to be recognized for its exemplary achievements. This board sets a standard for other local units of government seeking to go ‘above and beyond’—not only in carrying out their statutory duties but also in serving the public through innovative programs and services, as well as being good stewards of the community’s resources.”

Presentation of the Township of Excellence Certificate of Achievement will occur at the township board meeting, 7 p.m., Monday, April 13, at the Spring Lake Township Hall, 106 S. Buchanan St. The public is invited to attend.

The Michigan Townships Association promotes the interests of Michigan townships by fostering strong, vibrant communities; advocating legislation to meet 21st century challenges; developing knowledgeable, township officials and enthusiastic supporters of township government; and encouraging ethical practices of elected officials who uphold the traditions and unique characteristics of township government and the values of the people of Michigan.

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