

2018 IDEP Outfall Screening

Village of Sparta Report

Communities in Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan, required to have federal Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits, joined together under the guidance of the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) to apply for a watershed-based stormwater permit in 2003. The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) was officially formed as an agency of GVMC in 2009 to coordinate the implementation of the permits and provide basin-wide oversight, conduct watershed-wide initiatives, and prioritize water quality concerns.

Since then, 23 entities, made up of county, city, village, township, universities, and local school districts, have collaborated on reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff to improve local waterways in the Lower Grand River Watershed. The implementation of their shared plans for education, pollution prevention, and post-construction controls has empowered the communities and their residents to protect the watershed and improve quality of life.

Currently, communities are implementing a regional Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP) to prohibit and effectively eliminate illicit discharges to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Communities have adopted illicit discharge ordinances based on this plan that give them legal authority to eliminate illicit connections. Working cooperatively, they have accurately identified ownership and responsibility of all outfalls to waters of the state and MS4 to MS4 discharge points in the urbanized areas. The communities also signed inter-agency agreements to cooperate with upstream tracing of a source when an illicit discharge was found. This unique cooperative arrangement gained the attention of EPA, resulting in modifications to the upcoming reissuance of the permits that allow the continuation of interjurisdictional programs to protect the watershed.

Fieldwork

In the summer of 2018, LGROW interns were shared between 15 different communities in Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon Counties to screen all MS4 outfalls in the watershed, resulting in the identification and testing of dry-weather flows and eliminating illicit discharges. Before screening began, training and mapping needed to occur. LGROW staff provided IDEP training to all MS4s in the Lower Grand River Watershed and the MS4s in the Macatawa Watershed on May 22 and 23, 2018. An LGROW intern created a map of each community's storm sewer system using ArcCollector to be used in the field on a tablet or smartphone.

Outfall screening is weather dependent. Interns needed to wait 48 hours after the last rain event in order to determine if flow was present during dry weather. If flow is present in the system during dry weather, it can be an indicator of illicit discharges or illicit connections. Inspections are completed to eliminate these discharges or connections and to give MS4 communities insight into how their systems are operating. Once in the field, ArcCollector was used to find each outfall. It was used similarly to a

hand-held GPS unit. Locations for outfalls in Sparta varied from major roads, to others located in tall shrubs, and even underwater.

LGROW interns were responsible for inspecting each outfall following certain guidelines set forth in the IDEP. If the outfall did not have water flowing from it (which is ideal), then only basic observations regarding the size or material of the pipe, and the outfall location would be recorded. If an outfall was found to have dry weather flow, then a field test would be required. Water was sampled for pH, ammonia, and temperature. Sample results determined follow-up procedures.

LGROW staff performed outfall inspections in the Village on August 1st, 2nd and September 12th, 2018 with the help of Village staff. These outfalls can be seen in Figure 1. Three outfalls in Sparta were sampled due to flow being observed. These outfalls can be observed in Figure 2. No outfalls required a follow up as a result from these tests; pH, Surfactants, Ammonia and Temperature results were in the normal range, as specified per the IDEP. This outfall can be shown in Figure 1.

Certain outfalls could not be properly inspected because they were buried or underwater. In those cases, interns would check the catch basin that was directly upstream from the outfall for flow. If there was no flow in the catch basin, then it was assumed that there was no dry weather flow exiting the subsequent outfall. If the catch basin had water that was flowing through it, it would need to be sampled and recorded.

Using ArcCollector, all data from 2018 fieldwork will be saved and can be referenced in the future by communities. Photographs of each outfall were attached to the data entries, which will make dry weather screening easier in the future. This screening occurs once every 5 years. These pictures were also taken so that each MS4 program manager can look and see what their outfalls look like. If there are any issues with the outfalls (ex: broken or impaired pipes) it should be visible in these images.

The Village of Sparta's MS4 had a four broken outfalls. These outfalls were located on Harper Drive, Prospect and Division, at the end of Aspect Street and in William A Rogers Village Park. Sparta also has two impaired outfalls these are located on Division and Loomis and also at the end of Carrie Street. These can be seen in Figure 4.

The following attachment in Figure 3 is an image of Sparta's outfalls for the MS4, and specific points that need to be removed from the MS4 list. The points that need to be removed have either been field verified to no longer exist, or are not under jurisdiction of the community's MS4. This information was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). More information regarding the Villages MS4 permit and permit specific documents can be found at: www.lgrow.org/ms4

Figure 1: Outfall and Discharge Point List

Sparta Outfalls and Discharge Points 2018						
Outfall ID#	Point of Discharge	Latitude	Longitude	Priority	Outfall or Discharge Point	Ultimate Outfall
SV1401	Waters of the State	12764956.82	609372.2789	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1402	Waters of the State	12765534.2	608836.0951	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1403	Waters of the State	12766583.39	608199.7466	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1406	Waters of the State	12766862.8	608319.2414	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1805	Waters of the State	12766819.6	608287.1218	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1408	Waters of the State	12766787.18	608262.1212	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1409	Waters of the State	12766887.15	608340.725	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1410	Waters of the State	12766639.99	608235.298	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1411	Waters of the State	12766201.68	608358.9051	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1412	Waters of the State	12766174.08	608301.0234	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1413	Waters of the State	12766186.89	608435.6862	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1414	Waters of the State	12766112.14	608600.902	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1417	Waters of the State	12765792.9	608828.3299	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1418	Waters of the State	12765789.07	608755.49	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1420	Waters of the State	12765010.03	609263.6327	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1501	Waters of the State	12762272.19	609240.1632	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1503	Waters of the State	12764638.21	610374.0186	Medium High	Outfall	UNNAMED WETLAND
SV1504	Waters of the State	12764513.24	609399.1416	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1505	Waters of the State	12764081.07	609070.7064	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1506	Waters of the State	12763118.49	608773.7808	Medium High	Outfall	UNNAMED WETLAND
SV2301	Waters of the State	12767168.21	607891.5713	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2302	Waters of the State	12767779.5	607400.7405	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2321	Waters of the State	12767442.53	607690.3905	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2322	Waters of the State	12767560.8	607620.0311	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2323	Waters of the State	12767235.54	607930.599	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2324	Waters of the State	12767222.72	607963.6076	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV2202	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12761598.29	607167.7475	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV2204	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12762251.65	606311.5828	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV2206	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12763705.91	606291.0566	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV2207	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12763371.7	606264.4439	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV2208	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12763338.35	605681.7717	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV2213	MS4: K.C.R.C.	12761982.55	606337.781	Medium Low	Discharge Point	MENG'S BRANCH DRAIN
SV1801	Waters of the State	43.16612872	-85.70393003	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1802	Waters of the State	43.16618915	-85.70372316	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1803	Waters of the State	43.16527039	-85.70030995	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1804	Waters of the State	43.16525464	-85.70032522	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK
SV1805	Waters of the State	43.16155634	-85.70294622	Medium High	Outfall	NASH CREEK

Figure 2: Outfalls Sampled

Sparta Outfalls and Discharge Points 2018		
ID#	Location	Sample Satisfactory
SV1418	Union and William A Rogers Village Park	Yes
SV1407	Loomis and Balyeat Field Village Park	Yes
SV1403	Balyeat Field Village park	Yes

Figure 3: Locations of outfall that need to be added or removed to the MS4 information

Sparta Remove 1 Add 5



Figure 4: Broken Outfalls

Harper Drive



Prospect and Division



Aspect Street



William A Rogers Village Park



Impaired Outfalls

Division and Loomis



Carrie Street





Stormwater Training

Date: May 13, 2019

Time: 2pm

Location: Sparta

NAME:	DEPARTMENT:	SIGNATURE:
RADDY Carter	Water	Raddy Carter
Dennis Brinks	Village of Sparta - Ops	D Brinks
Julius Suchy	Village of Sparta	Julius S
Kristi Dugan	Village President	K Dugan
Pamela Nelson	Planning Commission	P Nelson
Julia Sturvis	Village of Sparta	Julia Sturvis
Jonathan Bowman	Village of Sparta	Jonathan Bowman
Paul Thompson		
Christine Robinson	Village Councilwoman	Christine Robinson



NAME: **Date:** May 13, 2019 **Stormwater Training** **Time:** 2 pm **Location:** Sparta

NAME:	DEPARTMENT:	SIGNATURE:
Heather Hockley	DPW	Heather Hockley
Chad Vonsyckle	DPW	
Daniel Olney	Fire Department	Dan Olney
Jan L. BRAYBROOK	PLANNING COMM.	Jan L. Braybrook
Bob So Robert Lisowski	PLANNING COMM.	Robert Lisowski
Lonnie Forman	DPW	Lonnie Forman
DAVID Cummins	Village Council	
Carl Wood	Sports Fire Dept	Carl Wood
Andy Milanowski	POLICE	Andy Milanowski



Stormwater Training

Date: May 13, 2019

Time: 2pm

Location: Sparta

NAME:

DEPARTMENT:

SIGNATURE:

[illegible]

18
Volume 23, Issue 21 • September 2018
Sparta TODAY

4th Annual Military Appreciation Game T-Shirt order

The fall will bring with it the fourth annual Military Appreciation Game hosted by the Kent City Football Program. Our largest fundraising event is now underway to raise money for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.


Below you will find an order form to purchase your 2018 Military Appreciation T-Shirt. Youth sizes to adult XL are \$12, and adult XXL and up will cost \$15. By purchasing a T-shirt you will be contributing to the GR Home for Veterans and you will give the community a better game against CAA for White.

Order by Friday September 28th. Order forms are due by Tuesday August 28th. Games play for Tuesday at the Kent City High School main office or Middle School main office.

If you have any questions, please email Coach Lane at lane@kentcitysports.org.

Military Appreciation Game T-Shirt Sale Order Form

The game will be played on Friday September 7th.



All funds raised are donated to the G. R. Home for Veterans.

Shirts are \$12 for youth sizes to adult XL, \$15 for adult XXL and up. Please Available: Youth XS to Youth XL, Adult Small to XL.

Name	Phone #	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
				\$12 or \$15	\$
				\$12 or \$15	\$
				\$12 or \$15	\$
				\$12 or \$15	\$
				\$12 or \$15	\$
Total					\$

Make checks payable to Kent City Football.

Order forms are due by Tuesday August 28th. All forms may be turned into the Kent City High School main office or Middle School main office.

If you have any questions, please email Coach Lane at lane@kentcitysports.org.


Your Local Watershed and You:


How You Can Help Reduce Pollution Entering The Grand River.

Stormwater is rain water that isn't soaked into the ground during a rain event. As stormwater passes over impervious surfaces like streets and parking lots, it picks up pollutants such as oil and grease from parking lots and roadways, excess fertilizer from lawns, and pet waste. Locally, this stormwater is not treated; rather it is discharged to the Grand River and its tributaries via storm sewer systems and drainage ditches. Find out where stormwater from your property goes by using the Lower Grand River Watershed Map at LGRWV.org.

Here are a few ways YOU can reduce stormwater pollution from entering the storm sewer system in your community:



- Reduce stormwater by planting rain gardens and using rain barrels in your gardens to prevent water from leaving your property.
- Keep storm drains near your home clear of litter by disposing of trash and recyclables in proper containers.
- Collect yard waste to prevent grass clippings and leaves from clogging the storm sewer system.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn before a rain storm, use only the manufacturer's recommendations, and sweep up excess fertilizer on hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways, and roadways.
- Ensure that soiled water and other wastes from car washing practices do not enter the storm sewer system by washing your car on grass or gravel, rather than your driveway. Better yet, take your vehicles to a commercial car wash that sends wash water through the sanitary sewer.
- Be Septic Smart! Keep your septic system maintained to protect your family's drinking water and reduce the risk of contaminating local water.
- Properly dispose of any pet waste in a closed trash receptacle. Pet waste is raw sewage and contains harmful bacteria, easily transported to water through stormwater.
- Be conscious in doing jobs on dumpsters and outdoor trash cans.





For more ways to protect the Lower Grand River Watershed, visit the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds' Information and Education Page at LGRWV.org.

Share, Explore, Protect...

Sparta's American Legion Post 102
Sparta Fishing and Fishing Club
present the
3rd ANNUAL

DON REED MEMORIAL YOUTH SHOOT

Saturday, September 22, 2018
10am - 2pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
YOUTH AGES 10-17YRS

Join us for a day of introduction to different shooting disciplines including archery, J21.R, and shotgun sports.

Equipment available or bring your own.

Morning session: 10am-12pm
range safety, shooting instruction and practice.

Afternoon session following lunch (provided): 12:30pm-2pm
competitive shooting and friendly competitions on all 3 ranges!

YOUTH GROUPS PLEASE RSVP: 866-466-8666

13210 Lima Lane, Dewa
Sparta, Michigan
616-466-8666

Creekside Clover

It's hard to drive through downtown Sparta and not notice a change going on in the area formerly known as Inner Strength for Women and prior to that, Sparta for Women.

The old building has been gutted out and now has a completely different and updated look. Upon walking into the building, you will immediately notice there is an upscale rustic industrial vibe. A new vibe for a new business, Creekside Clover.

Creekside Clover Boutique has plans to bring something new, trendy, and different to

downtown Sparta. Featuring unique products with a mix of vintage, rustic, and specialty related local products, Creekside Clover expects to become a destination retailer for the Ridge area. As the product begins to arrive, the excitement for the opening grows.

Creekside Clover is expected to open in late August with a grand opening celebration planned for mid-September. Follow Creekside Clover on Facebook for all of the exciting product, event, and opening information.

Great American Media Services Acquires Momentum Media To Create Powerhouse Sports Content Group

Great American Media Services of Sparta recently acquired three prominent sports industry magazines previously owned by MomentumMedia: Coaching Management, Athletic Management and Training & Conditioning. The acquisition will position Great American Media Services Sports Group as a dominant force in providing magazine, timely and relevant content for more than 500,000 coaches, athletic directors and athletic trainers nationwide.

"With a combined 120 years of industry experience and expertise, this enhanced Sports Group will enhance and inform how sports industry professionals in a whole new level," said Great American Media Services CEO Matt McClellan. "Our marketing partners will greatly benefit from an expanded and enhanced base who will be

using new supplies, products and perspectives through this enhanced multimedia platform."

The Sports Group will continue to offer the most popular content from Coaching Management and Athletic Management within the pages of Coaching and Athletic Director, creating a single powerhouse brand that will cover all aspects of team sports - from facilities and product innovation, to player safety and athlete development. Training & Conditioning will continue as the leading multimedia brand focused on content specific to strength training, injury prevention, rehabilitation, improving athlete performance and more. Winning Scope, a leading resource for basketball coaches nationwide, will round out the Sports Group.



Sparta Civic Center

The Sparta Civic Center has officially been passed to the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce for the management of the property. For any event or occasion, please contact the Chamber for availability and/or reservations. The Civic Center holds up to 225 occupants.



Ribbon Cutting

The Cassville Old School held a Ribbon Cutting Celebration to new ownership of the building by the Cassville Community Foundation. Congratulations president Kelly Bull and all the board members who made it happen!

Septic System Maintenance Protects Human Health and Water Quality



As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system, which helps keep people healthy and protects our rivers and streams.

A septic system is a treatment system for your wastewater, consisting of a pipe leading from the house carrying the waste, a septic tank, a drainfield (soak field), absorption field, and suitable soil.

Regular maintenance includes pumping your septic tank regularly, usually every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure.

Signs of failure include odors, plumbing or septic tank backups,

gurgling sounds in the plumbing system or wet, spongy ground or unusually lush plant growth in your yard. Poorly managed septic systems often allow wastes to directly enter watersheds.

The health and environmental consequences are potential health hazards to local beaches for swimmers and other water users, an increase of algae and other aquatic plant growth causing fish kills, and contaminated groundwater.

Does your home have a septic system? Make sure you are taking good care of it! Failure to properly



Typical septic system

maintenance can be costly for you, for people's health, and for our lakes, rivers and streams. For more information on how you can be a Septic Smart homeowner, go to www.lgrow.org/septicsmart.



Applefest 2019 T-shirts!

Visit our sponsors to grab your T-shirt!

Howard Christensen Nature Center Fall - Winter Event Schedule 2019

Fair Festival

Saturday, September 14
10 am - 3 pm
\$2 nonmembers / \$5 members

Has anyone asked about craft activities available at our Annual Fair Festival? Lots of food and fun - and of course a walk in the woods to find the fair dates will see if anyone is home.

Order of arrangements

Pie Making

Thursday, September 21
6 pm
\$25 nonmembers / \$20 members

We provide all the fruit ingredients, including handouts dough. You will have three different pies to take home and take for home for sale. We are happy to help you in any way to ensure your pie is perfect. Event will be held at Camp Uly's at 530 20 Mile Road. Registration required. Limited to 30 participants.

Pumpkin Carving And Spooky Walk

Saturday, October 19
6 pm
\$2 nonmembers / \$5 members

Nothing says Halloween like the pumpkin carving and a spooky walk.

Pie included a pumpkin and everything you need to carve it.

Carving starts at 6 pm.

Walks will start when it gets dark.

This event is open to kids of all ages (over the grown up walk).

Donuts, cider, and coffee provided.

We can only guarantee darkness for those that participate!

Wreath Making

Saturday, December 7
1 pm
\$10 nonmembers / \$5 members

Adorn this year's grape vine wreath with fragrant cuttings and personalize it with ornaments. Everything supplied, including refreshments.

This event will be held at Camp Uly's at 530 20 Mile Road.

HCNC Memberships

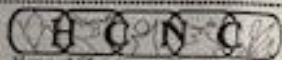
Available online 24/7

Individual \$20, Couple \$35, Family \$75

Business/Group \$250

Benefits of becoming an HCNC Member

Free Admission! No more visitor fee. Discounts on programs and member center rentals. Free parking/our state rental... when we have space for you. Knowing you are helping keep the nature center available to the community.



Howard Christensen Nature Center
Operated by the King, Paul, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
founded solely by events and donations.

HCNC remains grateful to all donors and it is required for a visitor fee. Participating online allows us to ensure enough supplies for all attendees. Likewise, events with us and participants are subject to cancellation.

818-479-2338

info@howardchristensen.org

www.howardchristensen.org

34790 Red Pine Dr, PO Box 42, Kent City, MI 49531

Curbside Brush Pickup Reminder for Village Residents:

The Village of Sparta DPW will begin brush pickup starting on April 1, 2019. Brush will be picked up the first full work week of each month. Brush must be curbside by 7:00 a.m. Monday of the week the brush is scheduled to be picked up.

Brush size will be limited to a maximum diameter of four inches (4"). Only branches, trees, and limbs smaller than four inches (4") in diameter will be picked up by the Village crew. Any limbs or branches larger than four inches (4") in diameter will be left curbside. The curbside pickup schedule is as follows:

Remaining Brush Pick-Up Schedule:
September 2-6 & October 7-11

Please place brush between sidewalk and curb, NOT in the street, with cut ends lying in the same direction. Monthly brush pick will end October 11, 2019. Just a reminder - the Village does NOT pick up lawns, garden waste or grass clippings during brush pickup. Village residents can drop leaves, garden waste, grass clippings and brush not larger than 4" in diameter at the Village of Sparta DPW at 278 W. Division Street during regular work hours. NO commercial dumping. NO stumps larger than 4" in diameter. ID's may be checked before you unload to confirm village residency. Also as a reminder, Christmas Trees can be dropped off at the DPW starting the Monday after Christmas.

If you have any questions, please call The Village Office at (616) 887-8221 or the DPW staff at (616) 887-8225.

Friendly Code Enforcement Reminders:

Below are a listing of some ordinance to keep in mind this summer!

Code 78-79: Prohibits overgrown grass, 8 inches or higher, noxious weeds, dead bushes, dead trees and stumps

Code 70-73: Prohibits throwing and blowing grass clippings in the street

Code 26-64: Prohibits yard parking (parking in the grass)

Code 26-64 Prohibits storing an inoperable vehicle in an unenclosed area

Code 26-113: Unenclosed storage of building materials, appliances, and yard rubbish is prohibited

Code 26-33: Out of cycle brush piles cannot be stored by the side of the road

If you have a question or are unsure you would like to report please call (616) 887-8221 or e-mail CodeEnforcement@spartamichigan.org. Visit SpartaMI.org to view the Code of Ordinances and more!

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS
3 R'S OF FALL YARD CARE

REDUCE
→ SLASH

REUSE
→ MULCH

RECYCLE
→ COMPOST

Visit www.3Rspartamichigan.org for more information

VENDORS WANTED

for the
Michigan Apple Fest

Harvest Market
craft fair

September 21 2019

from 10am to 4pm
in Downtown
Sparta

SEEKING:

Crafts • Jewels • Clothing
Fine Art • Housewares
Push Items • Sweet Treats

WWW.SPARTACHAMBER.COM
MICHIANAPPLEFEST@GMAIL.COM

Great Services acquired the industry owned by Coaching & Management Consultants will provide Media for a domestic engaging, 1 content for motion, and athletic test. With a of industry expertise, the Group will be team sports division in a said Great A Services CEO "Our market greatly benefit customer

Sep
HuLOWER
ORGANIZ

As a local responsible people build rivers and a A system for y consisting of carrying the dreamfield (a field), and a Regular pursuing 99 usually once avoid a cost sign of planning or

Meet the new Village Code Enforcement Officer, Julia Sturvist

Julia began code enforcement at the beginning of July, and is stationed in the Sparta Village Office located at 156 E. Division St., Sparta, MI 49345. Please feel free to call (616) 865-8965, email CodeEnforcement@spartavillage.org, or stop by the Village office to submit a complaint or ask a question! Julia is excited to work with our community members and serve the Village of Sparta.



ORDINANCES TO KEEP IN MIND OVER THE SUMMER:

Code 78-75: Prohibits overgrown grass, 8 inches or higher, noxious weeds, dead bushes, dead trees and stumps.
Code 70-75: Prohibits throwing and blowing grass clippings in the street.
Code 28-64: Prohibits yard parking; parking in the grass.
Code 25-64: Prohibits storing an inoperable vehicle in an unenclosed area.
Code 28-112: Unenclosed storage of building materials, appliances, and yard rubbish is prohibited.
Code 26-33: Out of cycle brush piles cannot be stored by the side of the road.

Visit SpartaMI.org to view the Code of Ordinances and more!

Robert Shangle presents an ArtPrize comic adventure



ArtPrize 2018 is ending in September! This year Robert Shangle will be presenting, in collaboration with his son Tim (Shangle), a comic book character who escapes from the flat pages of his book to explore ArtPrize and West Michigan. A video of his adventures will be hosted at the virtual Grand Rapids Police Department, but you may see him anywhere around ArtPrize.

**BLAKESLEE
ROP, PLC**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Estate Planning • Probate
Business • Real Estate

(616) 866-9593

240 Northland Dr. Rockford, MI
www.br-law.net



SPARTA HEALTH CENTER ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

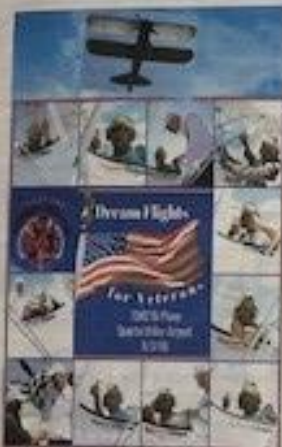
616.685.1300

A Partner of Mercy Health Physician Partners

475 South State Street Sparta, MI 49345

Ageless Aviation

On August 10, 2018, 11 Senior Neighbors Veterans arrived at the Sparta Miller Airport in Sparta, Michigan where they were given a Dream Flight by the Ageless Aviation Dream Foundation based out of Carson City, Nevada. This would be the second summer that a group of veterans from Senior Neighbors would have the opportunity to fly in a 1942 Stearman Bi Plane. "We will continuously apply for this opportunity in hopes that every senior veteran member who desires an



open cockpit flight in a bi plane can experience this," said Jane Ringler, coordinator at the Sparta Senior Neighbors. "It is a true bi-light of the summer for these Veterans who have given so much to our Country in service."

Ageless Aviation Dream Foundation is a non-profit organization established and dedicated to seniors and the United States military veterans who have always had a burning desire to see like engines. President, founder and pilot, Darryl Fisher, flew all the way to Michigan from Nevada to offer these flights to our local vets. Darryl exemplifies the mission by his gratitude and generosity shown to the vets, each received a hat signed by Darryl after the flight and a heartfelt thank you and hand shake for their past service to our great country," said Ringler. "Darryl is a kind man with a volunteer's heart." Ageless Aviation Dream Foundation has awarded well over 2,000 dream flights all over the country since beginning in 2011. The oldest vet to take flight was 102 years old.

The 11 local veterans who received flights were Brian Smith, Air Force 14 Sgt 1975, Elmer Ross Army PFC 1975-76, Dick Burdett Army SF 4 1959-60, Gilbert Meyer Navy Seaman 1958-59, Gordy Gelmski Army E5 1968-69, Karl Glass Air Force ADC 1958-60, Mike Mockelquist Navy E3 1978-79, Pat Bray Army Sgt E3 1966-68, Pete Neal Navy E3 1964-69, Stanley South Army USMC PFC 1971-1975. And WWII veteran Jim Hoogenhyde Navy SN/C 1943-1945.

A Celtic Surprise

The Board of Directors of the Sparta Celtic Festival Inc. chose a charity to donate a portion of their 2018 festival proceeds. After a very successful 9th Anniversary Celtic Fest this year, some of the Celtic Fest Board and Committee members met with the staff and Board Members of the Sparta Carnegie Township Library on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 and presented them with a check for \$500 to be used as the library deems most appropriate.

The Sparta Carnegie Township Library was selected for this donation based on the library's continued support of the Celtic Fest. The library building is "in the footprint" of the festival grounds and they have always been a very good neighbor to the event. Like the Celtic Fest, the Sparta Carnegie Township Library is "FREE" and "Family Friendly!" The fact that the library has assisted in the promotion of our event, through social media posts and shares was also a main consideration in deciding the recipient of this donation.

The Sparta Celtic Fest was started in 2010 and was incorporated in 2017. It has been the goal of the Board of



Directors to support a local charity once the festival could sustain itself financially. With amazing support from the community, area businesses and the hundreds plus volunteers, the 2018 event ended with a small surplus from the sales of beverages and Celtic Fest promotional items that made this donation to the library possible. No festival sponsorship money was used in this donation, but without those sponsors, the Sparta Celtic Festival wouldn't be able to exist, and therefore make this donation. The

Board thanks all of its sponsors that make the festival a reality every year.

The Board of the Sparta Celtic Festival Inc. is planning additional donations to the library, in hopes to expand the library's Celtic interest collections of books, videos and music CDs. More information on those contributions will be announced as they become available in the future.

In 2019, the Sparta Celtic Festival will hold its 10th Anniversary Event on Friday August 9th and Saturday August 10th.



Nash Creek Banks Going Native

Applesview students and parents, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and a High School Robotics Team from Belmont excitedly planted 50 more native trees and bushes along the banks of Nash Creek in Rogers Park on October 9 and 13. Sparta Village received a matching grant from the DTE Energy Foundation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program. Volunteers and preparation work from Sparta's DPN are important part of the match grant funds needed to utilize these programs. The 50 native trees and bushes planted along the bank will help the erosion of the banks, provide shade for fish habitats, provide needed habitats for native wildlife such as monarch butterflies, and help reduce the overgrowth of non-native invasive

weeds that choke out the view of the water.

The reason Sparta is so invested in planting native plants along the bank is that native plants attract pollinators and insects. Fish and aquatic life depend on native plant parts and insects for food. These root systems grow deep which stabilize the bank, clean the water, and cool the creek. In 1970, Nash Creek was diverted and became a county ditch. Since then most are not native. Our volunteers could see right away what a difference they made and look forward to watching it grow in the future. Thank you to the volunteers (not all are pictured here) who made this project possible!

Beuschel Funeral Home

5088 Alpine Avenue
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone: 616-785-3863
Email: brent@beuschelfuneralhome.com

on
ve
9th
The
the
Pres
of by
& m
thro
The
the
was
and
P
Och
inclu
HCB
movie
On" by
At the
church
in the
a
A la
the pro
everyon
After the
service
the crea
tives h
well as g
open bo
an ice cr
auditor

20

The
to accom
Begin in 2
and honor
dedicated
to The Spa
to accom
Begin in 2
and honor
dedicated
to notable
• Ten hel
Arrive in
• Arranged
• First was
Herold
• Comment
• Inventor
• Karl Gie
• Lady Oie
• Quinlan
• Newpage
H.E. (Ho
• School h
A spee
the Sparta
their anim
be served



MARK LAM
Sparta, Mich

General elections are coming up on November 6th. All of Michigan's seats in the State Senate and House of Representatives are up for election. This ballot will also be an issue voting ballot. Some of the topics present is the regulation of marijuana in Michigan, voter redistricting, and voting regulations. For more information, visit michigan.gov.

Join the Sparta Fire Board

Sparta Fire Department is a joint effort of the Village of Sparta and Sparta Township. It is managed by the Sparta Fire Board, whose members have been appointed from the Village Council and Township Board. The newly revised Fire Board Agreement gives to the poss-

ibility of appointing a citizen member (instead of only Council/Board members) to the Sparta Fire Board. We need to know who is interested! You must be a registered voter in Sparta Township and available for Thursday evening meetings. Preferred candidates will have knowl-

edge of fire department operations and budgeting. If you feel you could serve your community in this way, please send a letter of interest stating your qualifications to Sparta Township Clerk, c/o E. Division St., Sparta MI 49359 or email clerk@spartatownship.org.

SPARTA 300 Truck & Dune Buggy Race

November 10, 2018 at 11 am
\$10 / person; 12 & under free
10448 Peach Ridge Ave, Sparta

SPARTA 500
Snow Mobile Races
Dec. 1, 2018 at 10 am
\$10 / person; 12 & under free
10448 Peach Ridge Ave, Sparta



Ridgetown Investments celebrates its first anniversary on October 1st!

One year ago, Randy Schmidt and his entire team separated from ChoiceOne Bank to start a new business. There are many changes occurring in the financial services industry, and Randy and the team wanted more flexibility to adjust to these changes and allow for a greater focus on service to our clients. Our motto is: You are "Expert & Different".

Soon after Ridgetown Investments was established, our brokerage company, Investment Center of America, was sold to the largest brokerage company in the United States, LPL Financial. There are over 25,000 advisors affiliated with this new company. We are proud to say that Randy is in the top 5% of advisors!

Some fun trivia:

Where did the Ridgetown name come from? Since we are a part of the Fruit Ridge area of West Michigan (also known as The Ridge for its land features and growing extensive agricultural activity, specifically because of its fruit production), and since we are now located in the "town" of Sparta, we thought it was a good combination. And of course, we added the Investments to describe what we do. Our value is much less important than Randy's favorite, when land and mortgage rates started falling to their historical low, which was our initial goal of value retention. - Point the time you step on the sidewalk to our front door it is only 11.5 feet, a few steps closer than before. Which also, means you are closer to our chocolate chip cookies that we always available!

ChoiceOne Bank Helps Keep Sparta History Alive for Future Generations

ChoiceOne Bank is proud to take part in the Sparta Garden Club Tribute Park Dedication. As a Platinum Donor, Sparta is known for its small towns, charm and beautiful countryside. The area known as Sparta Township was first settled in 1844. ChoiceOne Bank has been serving West Michigan for over 100 years with headquarters today in Sparta.

"We are proud to participate in this dedication and to be honored as a Platinum Donor. ChoiceOne Bank has strong ties to the Sparta Township Historical Commission and the Sparta Garden Club for many reasons," said ChoiceOne Bank President and CEO Bob Poles. "With our headquarters in Sparta, we are a locally based where the historical Sparta headquarters used to sit. In addition, the area behind our building is where the memorial garden is planned and we have many community members and our staff pass through this area regularly."

"The idea to create a Sparta Garden Club Tribute Park started in February when the Sparta Garden Club, the Sparta Township Historical Commission and the Sparta Garden Club and our Tribute Garden was born."

ChoiceOne BANK



who is also a Board Member of Sparta Township Historical Commission. "We saw this as an opportunity for Sparta and the park. Our Board voted to create a monument dedicated to the Sparta Township Historical Commission and the Sparta Garden Club and our Tribute Garden was born."

The Historical Commission took charge of creating a memorial garden commemorating Sparta. Marlene Marling, a landscape artist, was hired to create the garden.

The Sparta Township Historical Commission Friends did a fundraising campaign and local residents donated their time and materials including plants and historical bricks. The Hazel Chisholm Federal Home donated the monument. A Volunteer Day was organized on June 30 and the board and community came together to create the new Sparta Garden Club Tribute Park which is now a beautiful entrance into Sparta Park, just behind the Historical Commission Research Center on 71 North Union Street in Sparta.

"As the local community bank, we take great pride in the communities we serve," said Poles. "Our Digital Channels and Marketing Officer, Tim Shugart, also on the Sparta Township Historical Commission Board of Directors and is very involved in the Sparta community. I'm very proud of his efforts to volunteer time to make Sparta a great place to live and work. Our mission is to provide superior service, high quality advice and show our utmost respect to everyone we meet, and our vision is to be the best bank in Michigan. I think our employees live up to this charge every day."

PROTECT OUR WATERSHED

3 R'S OF FALL YARD CARE

REDUCE
→ RAKE

Remove leaves, grass, and other debris from your lawn. Raking helps to break down organic matter and return nutrients to the soil. It also helps to prevent mold and mildew from growing on the lawn.

REUSE
← MULCH

Use fallen leaves as mulch to protect your lawn from winter damage. Mulch helps to retain moisture and prevent the soil from freezing too early.

RECYCLE
→ COMPOST

Compost your lawn clippings and leaves to create a natural fertilizer for next year. Composting helps to improve soil health and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Visit www.LGROW.org for more information

Septic System Maintenance Protects Human Health and Water Quality

As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system, which helps keep people healthy and protects our rivers and streams.

A septic system is a treatment system for your wastewater, consisting of a pipe leaving the house carrying the waste, a septic tank, a drainfield (leach field, absorption field), and suitable soil.

Regular maintenance includes pumping your septic tank regularly, usually once every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure.

Signs of failure include odors, plumbing or septic tank backups, gurgling sounds in the plumbing system or wet, spongy ground or unusually lush plant growth in your yard.

Poorly managed septic systems often allow wastes to directly enter waterways.

The health and environmental consequences are potential health hazards at local beaches for swimmers and other water users, an increase of algae and other aquatic plant growth causing fish kills, and contaminated groundwater.

Does your home have a septic system? Make sure you are taking good care of it! Failure to properly maintain can be costly for you, the people's health, and for our lakes, rivers and streams. For more information on how you can be a Septic Smart homeowner, go to: HYPERLINK "http://www.lgrw.org/septicsmart" www.lgrw.org/septicsmart



Septic waste system

LOWER GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION of WATERSHEDS



CHECKUPS ARE GOOD FOR YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH.

Like annual checkups, a yearly financial checkup can help uncover hidden problems, inspire you to set new goals, provide information you need to improve your health, and help make sure you're on track for wealth building. It's a proactive, thoughtful and objective investment guarantee aimed at keeping your finances and goals in shape.

Call today for more information or to schedule a consultation.

RIDGETOWN INVESTMENTS
Patty Schmitt, CFP®

10000 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Sparta, MI 49345
616-887-1768
www.ridgetowninvestments.com

Sparta Tire & Automotive

Tires • Service • & More
Tires & Wheels • Brakes • Alignments • Shocks & Struts
Import Factory Maintenance • Tune-Ups & More

Complete Automotive Repair

440 S. State St., Sparta 616-887-1768 spartatire.com



Serenity Wellness

Chiropractic Center & Massage

www.serenitywellnesschiro.com

- Spinal adjustments
- Extremity adjustments
- Cold Laser
- Traction
- Decompression

- Medical massage
- Deep tissue & relaxation massage
- Hot or cold stone massage
- Prenatal massage
- Gift Certificates!!!

Dr. LynnMarie S. Leyder

Doctor of Chiropractic
doctor@serenitywellnesschiro.com

542 S. State St. • Sparta MI 49345

phone: 616-887-2178

"Helping you reach your health care goals."

Visit and follow us on Facebook
for exclusive offers, health tips and more!

facebook



Photo: Johnny and his grandma Kim enjoying one of our story time board books together.

Library Grant

Sparta Carnegie Township Library was excited to receive a \$500.00 grant from the Sparta Youth Advisory Committee in May. This money will be used to purchase children's programming at the library. We will be purchasing a large mobile dry erase board and board book sets to be used in our story times. Story time offers many tools that promote the love of reading and the love of the library. The dry erase board and the book collections create more opportunities for us to reach out to our community families.

Thank you Sparta Youth Advisory Committee!

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS • L.C.GROW Summer Tips

CLEANUP

Use a bucket to hold detergent or detergent solution. Check the label for use instructions. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use.

MEASURE

Measure before you use. Measure the amount of detergent you need. Do not use more detergent than recommended.

WASH

Wash detergent bottles thoroughly. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use.

CARE

Have a spill? Do not use detergent. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use.

CONSERVE

Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use.

REUSE

Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use. Do not use detergent on a surface that is not recommended for use.

SPARTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Sparta Community Foundation Accepts Grant Proposals

Decisions Start For September Meeting

The Sparta Community Foundation will begin accepting grant applications for community based programs that will benefit art & culture, community development, education, environment, health, or other needs in the greater Sparta area. Detailed information is available on the website: www.spartafoundation.org/sparta in early July. The deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2019. Decisions on grants awarded in September.

The Sparta Community Foundation supports programs that are innovative, unique, or create a new or different way of doing things. We provide equipment and give priority to those that yield substantial community benefits for the residents involved and that serve a broad segment of the community.

SPARTA RIVERVIEW

Equal Housing Opportunity

James McClain Community Manager
spartariverview@gmail.com
 95 Viking Drive • Sparta MI
 office 616-887-1933 • fax 616-887-2076

Serenity Wellness

Chiropractic Center & Massage

www.serenitywellnesschiro.com

- Joint adjustments
- Extremity adjustments
- Cold laser

- Traction
- Decompression
- Reflexology

- Deep tissue & relaxation massage
- Hot or cold stone massage
- Prenatal massage
- Gift Certificate!!

Dr. LynnMarie S. Leyder
 Doctor of Chiropractic
info@serenitywellnesschiro.com
 542 S. State St. • Sparta MI 49345
 phone 616-887-2178

"Helping you reach your health care goals."

Visit and follow us on Facebook for exclusive offers, health tips and more! [Facebook](#)

2019 SILVERADO 1500 TRAIL BOSS

The Next Century of Chevy Trucks Starts Here

Just Mary
 Spring Market Area
 Coordinator

YOUR HOMETOWN HEAVY DUTY TRUCK STORE

YOU'LL LOVE THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS!

616-887-1791
 Corner of M-37 & Sparta Ave.
www.spartachevy.com

WE SPARTA

LIVE IN CONCERT!



TRIBUTE QUARTET

DATE & TIME: Friday, August 9, 2019 at 7:00pm

PLACE: Sparta Baptist Church 236 S. State St. Sparta MI 49345

INFO: \$5 tickets at the door - sponsored in part by:

• Sparta T. Max Memorial Foundation • Sparta, MI • Sparta Baptist Church
 • Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce • Sparta, MI • Sparta Baptist Church

FREE WILL OFFERING will be taken for NORTH SENT CONGREGATION

NORTH SENT CONGREGATION is a Christian congregation composed of churches who have an affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination.

TRIBUTEQUARTET.COM

 SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH
 8:45 AM - 1 PM
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 FOR TREE PLANTING IN
 SPARTA**
WILLIAM HOGGINS PARK, 152 N.
STATE STREET, SPARTA, 49345

Sparta Township is currently seeking volunteers to participate in the
 Village of Sparta Tree Planting Project. Sparta Township is currently
 seeking volunteers to participate in the Village of Sparta Tree Planting
 Project. The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.
 The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.

Volunteers for the project are needed to help plant trees in the
 Village of Sparta. The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.
 The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.

Sparks for the project are needed to help plant trees in the
 Village of Sparta. The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.
 The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.

Sparks for the project are needed to help plant trees in the
 Village of Sparta. The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.
 The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.

The project is sponsored by Sparta Township, Michigan DNR, and
 Sparta Township. The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.
 The project will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:45 AM to 1 PM.

**S. ELM STREET PROJECT
INFORMATION & TIMELINE**

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

The project is a \$1.5 million project to improve the safety and
 functionality of S. Elm Street. The project will be completed in 2020.
 The project will be completed in 2020.

SPARTA VILLAGE
ACE
HARDWARE

PARDON OUR MESS
 as we make room
 for our finest brands:

YETI **TRAEGER**
 WOOD PELLET GRILL

MAGNOLIA HOME
 FINE COLLECTION

CRAFTSMAN **TORO**
valspar

CLARK+KENSINGTON
 POWER & DESIGN BY ORB

155 E DIVISION • SPARTA, MI 49345
 (616) 887-7381
 HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm • SAT 8am-3pm

**SPLASH
 PAD
 IS OPEN!**

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE SPLASH PAD
 ARE 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

THE SPLASH PAD CAN BE TURNED ON DURING
 THOSE HOURS WITH THE FOOT ACTIVATOR
 THAT IS IN THE CENTER OF THE SPLASH PAD.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE RULES THAT ARE
 DISPLAYED AT THE SPLASH PAD.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
 PLEASE CONTACT VILLAGE HALL AT 887-8251.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH,

8:45 AM - 1 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TREE PLANTING IN SPARTA

WILLIAM ROGERS PARK, 152 N.
STATE STREET, SPARTA, 49345

ReLeaf Michigan, a non-profit tree organization, is partnering with the Village of Sparta, Davey Resource Group, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (an agency of the Grand Valley Metro Council) and the MDNR - Urban and Community Forestry Program to plant over 40 trees on Saturday, June 8, 2019 in William Rogers Park and Bayleaf Field. Trees provide innumerable benefits to communities such as shade, improving economic vitality of commercial districts, absorbing storm water, and many health benefits.

Funding for the program is provided through a US Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant awarded to ReLeaf Michigan to support and expand local capacity to manage community forest and trees. Tree locations were determined based on the results of a tree canopy assessment, which identified areas where trees would have the most environmental, economic, and aesthetic impact.

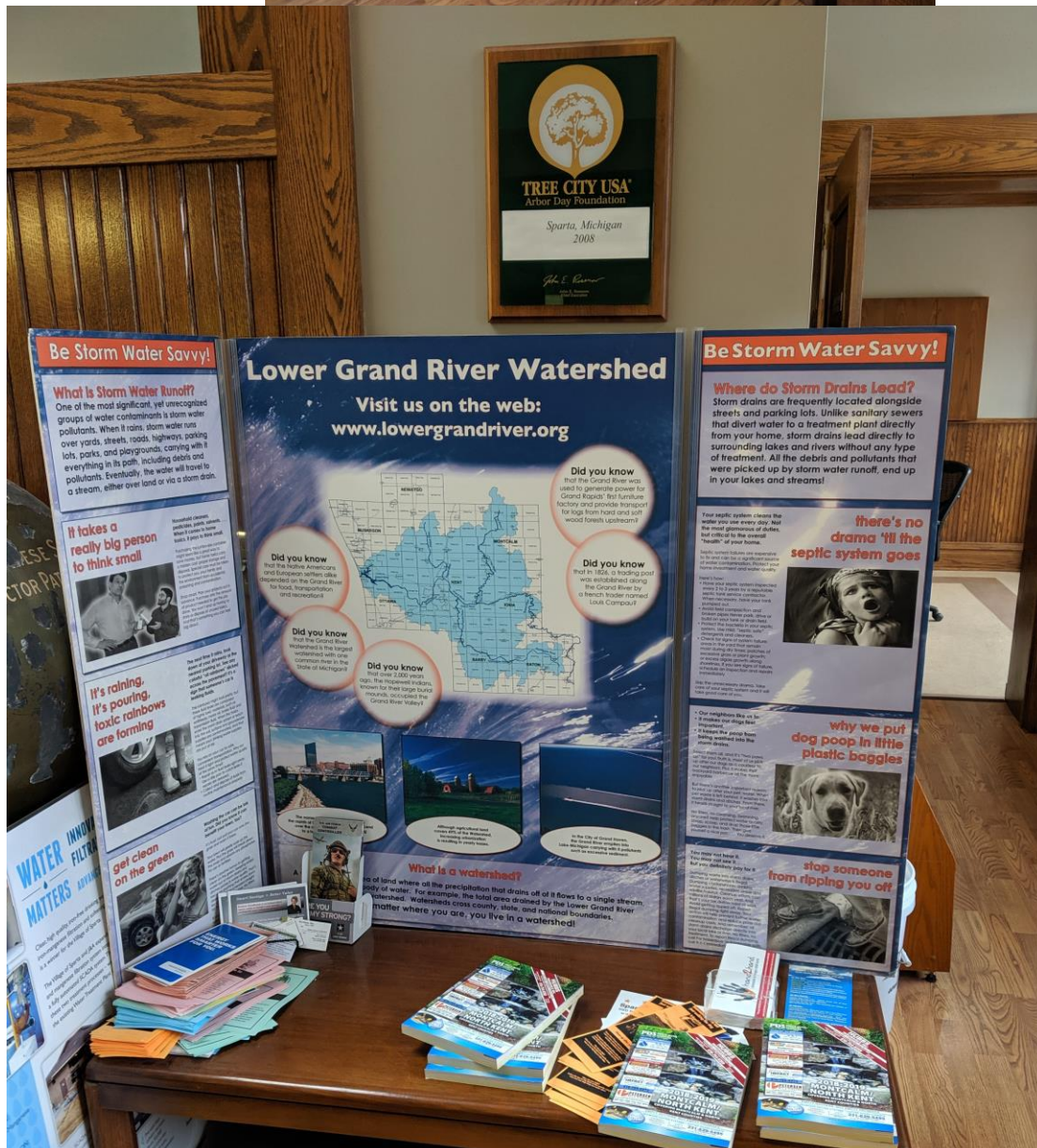
Organizers are looking for volunteers to help plant trees on Saturday morning. No experience necessary. Volunteers are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothing and bring a shovel and other appropriate tools. The group will meet at William Rogers Park, 152 N. State St., at 8:45 a.m. to sign in and enjoy light refreshments. ReLeaf Michigan will demonstrate how to properly plant a tree at 9:00 a.m. After the planting demo the volunteers will break into groups to plant the trees. This event is family friendly and a great opportunity for those requiring community service hours. Letters provided on site. We plant rain or shine (we're a hearty group).

Special thanks to village officials for their much appreciated collaboration to enhance this wonderful community. This event is free, but RSVP is appreciated. RSVP to Sue Blackall at sue.blackall@spartaschools.org or call 616-460-2429.

This event is sponsored by ReLeaf Michigan, Michigan DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program, Village of Sparta, Davey Resource Group, and Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds.

S. ELM STREET PROJECT

Materials on display in Village Hall:



Some of the trees planted with funds from ReLeaf:

