

Spring Lake Township earns second 'Township of Excellence' honor

Spring Lake Township (Ottawa Co.) was recognized for the second time as a "Township of Excellence" by MTA. Township officials were presented with the award at the General Session of MTA's 2018 Annual Conference.



When MTA first launched the program, Spring Lake Township was the first township to earn Township of Excellence "Certificates of Achievement"—in nine different areas of operation. Not only that, it was also the very first Michigan township to be named a "Township of Excellence," at the 2014 Conference in Acme Township, for the 2012-2016 term of office.

With this year's honor, Spring Lake Township became the first township to twice earn the comprehensive, impressive distinction. The latest recognition is for its achievement in the 2016-2020 township board term.

"It is very easy to have a vision that states you want to be the best possible place to live, work, learn, recreate and worship—it is another thing to be sincerely dedicated to that vision," Township Supervisor **John Nash** said. "We have a very special team of elected officials, staff and many volunteers who are committed to our vision. The MTA 'Township of Excellence' standard was an opportunity for us to see if we could achieve such a high standard and be evaluated by an outside source on that basis. It took a lot of work but we achieved that standard in 2014, and we are very proud to have achieved it again in 2018."

MTA defines a "Township of Excellence" as a strong, vibrant community governed by a township board that adheres to best practices to deliver quality programs and services to accomplish community-driven goals. Spring Lake Township board members and staff have demonstrated a willingness to distinguish the township through consistently meeting the highest standards of policy-driven governance; the board's commitment to making decisions that are knowledge-based; practicing accountable delegation of responsibilities and evaluation of results; assurances of responsive constituent service; adherence to strong fiscal management; and delivering high-quality township services.

"MTA is proud of Spring Lake Township for achieving the 'Township of Excellence' designation for the second time," MTA Executive Director **Larry Merrill** said. "The criteria to achieve this award is extremely rigorous and reflects that the elected board members, along with the township manager and the entire township staff, are reaffirming their commitment to excellence and implementing best practices within the entire spectrum of their programs and services."

Learn more about the "Township of Excellence" program at www.michigantownships.org/twpofexcellence.asp.



Accepting the "Township of Excellence" award at MTA's Annual Conference were (from left) Spring Lake Township Supervisor John Nash, Clerk Carolyn Boersma, Treasurer Jim Koster, Trustees Ronald Lindquist and Cathy Pavick, and Manager Gordon Gallagher.