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STATE OF THE VILLAGE APRIL 2018

Happy Spring, Oakers! At least we hope it's finally here, right? I'm ready to get back to the Community Garden and get some plants in the ground. Reports are there are only a couple plots left, so if you are interested, let us know.

We do not have a summer crammed with events like the Sesquicentennial, but the Downtown Development Authority and our downtown merchants are planning some fun things for the summer and fall, starting with the Spring Stroll on April 21st. Stop by and see some of the businesses you may not be familiar with, you might be surprised with what they have to offer. It's important that we support our local businesses as much as we can.

We have also been busy planning work for the rest of the year, including another round of repaving Village streets, namely: Hickory from the bridge to Ash; Oak from Locust to Linden; Cherry from Beech to Poplar; Indiana from Magnolia to Sherwood; Palm from Elm to Magnolia; Michigan from Elm to Magnolia; fixing a failing spot on Generations Drive in front of the Acorn Theatre; and Cedar from Michigan to Paw Paw. We will also be transforming the lot behind the library into a paved parking lot. Some of the streets that were replaced during the water project eight years ago are now coming due for a new surface. It is our goal to stay on top of the street maintenance by repaving as needed.

You may have read about some issues with the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our sewage is treated with a series of three ponds that collect and treat the sewage to the point it can be discharged cleanly into the streams. It's been 35 years since the ponds were installed. Insoluble material normally needs to be dredged from the ponds every 10 years. Ours have never been dredged. Consequently, the level of sludge has grown to the point that we don't have the capacity we used to have to treat our sewage. Complicating the issue, growth in the Village has resulted in heavier discharges to the system than in past years. Those heavier discharges and the smaller capacity have caused some issues when it comes to treatment. We have been very aggressively looking for solutions to the problem and believe we are well on the way to resolving the issue. We have recently installed, on a trial basis, a system that is designed to accelerate the treatment of the ponds. That trial will run into July. We have a contract with an environmental firm to dredge the pond that is in the most need and that will be done this fall. We had originally planned on dredging the pond last fall, but the heavy rains prohibited us from doing so. Our engineers are hopeful that these two steps along with diligent maintenance will serve us well into the future. The design capacity of the ponds is nearly twice what we are currently discharging to them. Properly maintained, we should have no problem with capacity for the foreseeable future.



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Developers continue their interest in Three Oaks. We are in talks with two different developers on two properties. Yes, I know you have heard this before, but when it comes to spending millions of dollars, I am sure we would all be a little cautious. The fact that the developers keep coming back is an encouraging sign. I think one of the things that sets Three Oaks apart is that the Village and Township work so well together. That always isn't the case and developers are pleasantly surprised when they realize that.

We just received the results of our annual audit by the Michigan Department of Treasury. Our employees and managers have done an excellent job of squeezing the checkbook and we have put ourselves in a good financial position. It is our plan to prudently spend down some of our reserves to make improvements and upgrades throughout the Village over the next several years. Please take a look at our Capital Improvement Plan on our website for details. The complete audit can be accessed via the *Village Info* section on our website.

The Village Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Feel free to stop by, see how we do things and express your opinions. The quickest way to get answers is to call Village Hall at (269) 756-9221. Current events and news are posted to our Facebook page and our website, threeoaksvillage.org.

Please let me, any Council member or Village Manager Mike Greene know of any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have, especially if you would be interested in serving your community on the Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Parks and Recreation Board, or Zoning Board of Appeals. Finally, I want to tell you all that when I talk to newcomers to Three Oaks, they **ALL** tell me that the people here are the friendliest and most welcoming they have ever seen. We all know that is one of the things that makes Three Oaks the greatest place on earth to live and raise a family! Thank you, Oakers. See you around town.

On behalf of the Three Oaks Village Council

David G. Grosse
Village President