

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

APRIL 2021

SIMSTOWNSHIP.ORG

May 4th is Election Day ... The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Two proposals are for a half mil increase for mosquito and gypsy moth and a half mil increase for roads. Gypsy moths have begun to invade in all communities around us and it won't be long until we are visited. We will need to begin re-surfacing some of our paved roads within the next two years and asphalt prices are once again on the rise as gas prices have risen. The Board will meet with the Road Commission on April 19th at 5 p.m. to discuss our projects for this summer.

New Vendor for the Transfer Station ... The joint board chose blue Republic over green Waste Management to transport waste to their Standish landfill. Republic was the only company that provides legitimate re-cycling and that is a big deal for many of our residents that are trying to do their part to protect the environment. Waste Management does not provide legitimate re-cycling, as they will tell us that they can re-cycle and it will cost us more money, but their re-cycling eventually ends up with the rest of the waste in their landfill. Hard to imagine, but that's how they work it and is why we did not incur additional costs for, what amounts to pseudo recycling which would double the disposal price. It won't take long to get over the shock of seeing blue dumpsters rather than green!

De-Bugging the Water Billing System ... We discussed last month the issues we were having with the billing system reading negative numbers. We have had our meter vendor and IT Support folks in and additional visits are scheduled. The water plant operators will join in the next visit with their equipment so operational checks can be performed and that equipment validated. Sharon has been making the corrections for Cycles 1 of 3 and those statements should go out within the next week or two. I don't know this for a fact, but I suspect the number of days billed may be greater possibly, but the due dates will remain the same. Software programs are great when they work, and when they crash, bad stuff happens, as we discovered and there is nothing we mortals can do to minimize those catastrophic events.

Replacing Veterans Flags at the Cemetery ... Memorial Day is May 31st which is a Monday. We will meet at the cemetery the Monday previous which is the 17th at 6 p.m. to replace all 300 plus flags, which takes about 2 hours.

Ideas for Landscaping in Front of Sims Hall ... Our new digital sign has been up for several months and is one area that needs help around the base. We want to improve and enhance the entire front yard of the hall and are looking for ideas from our residents. If you can help with ideas, call me on my cell at 989-646-0200 or email me at bobbermack@yahoo.com and I promise to present your ideas to the board. Better yet, join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. for our board meeting and you can be the precentor or presenter!

ENDING THOUGHT ... We began our "series" on happiness, or lack thereof, last month and this month is the last installment, so I want to thank my hundreds of loyal readers for their input! When all is said and done, we kinda know, or suspect or experience that happiness and a sense of fulfillment is achieved by cheerfully doing for others in whatever capacity possible. It is our Karma which is the sum of our actions for good that makes a difference. But the real secret for long term happiness is not to just be doing good but be content in that doing, no matter the situation.

We know that hundreds of articles and books have been written on the subject of being happy. However, the gold standard for books on happiness, health or heaven remains the Holy Bible. According to **Guinness World Records**, the **Bible** remains the best-selling book of all time with an estimated 5.5 billion copies sold and distributed.

One humorist - author, Leo Rosten, like many before him and since, "borrow" concepts from the Bible - whether intentional or not - and I certainly am not implying that is a bad thing, but it suggests that the Bible is and has been a huge influence for good in the life experiences of many. Here is one of Leo's phrases that is loaded with Bible concepts where he states, *"I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be compassionate. It is, above all, to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all.* All tremendous concepts that any person that has wandered through the Bible would easily recognize.

Dale Carnegie, famous for his popular book "How To Win Friends and Influence People" stated, *"It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about.* Again, we have another author that "borrowed" from the Bible. The Bible has a very specific "prescription" for healthy thinking and a healthy life, when it states 'Finally, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.' No negativity or pity trip there and looking back on how others have disappointed us or caused us untold grief.

As our happiness tour ends, to be happy, simply be doing and for sure, be content in that doing in spite of your present situation and at some point, "All things will [or will continue] to work together for good ..." bam