

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS
APRIL 2022
SIMSTOWNSHIP.ORG

CEMETERY NEWS ... Spring cleanup has been completed by NorthCoast, in concert with our ground's person, John Zirca. What it means is the winter grave blankets have been collected and leaves, and other tree debris have been removed and it's already looking nice and ready for the 2022 Spring and Summer Hallelujah! If one is not aware of the rules of what is allowed and not allowed within the cemetery, there is a large blue sign posted on the sidewall of the tan equipment garage at the south end of the cemetery. Other questions can be directed to the Cemetery Sexton at Sims Hall. Suzanne has all the information regarding grave site costs and opening and closing fees. Her number is 989-876-8631.

TRANSFER STATION ... The purpose of the Transfer Station is to give residents a place to dispose of household waste materials. Everything is to be contained in plastic garbage bags. An additional benefit is it gives residents a place to also drop off yard waste in the forms of small limbs, 1 inch or less in diameter, leaves and grass. This Transfer Station is not a landfill. Building materials, paint and chemicals of any type are not allowed. We are having problems with some folks hiding building materials under yard waste in their transport vehicle and dumping this stuff along with the "composting" waste. Boards with screws and nails are not adding to the "composting" process. Also, all bags containing leaves and various yard matter are to be emptied before leaving the site and removed and placed in the dumpsters or taken off-site by the resident. We are experiencing more frequent violations of these site policies. There always seem to be a few that are bent on making things worse for everyone else. One thing we may try is to limit yard waste dumping to one day a week, possibly for 4 hours on a Saturday afternoon. We would have someone inspect the transport vehicle and direct and point out a specific area to dump the material. Also, the Sims Board will soon discuss raising annual disposal fees that show up on your tax bill. Currently, we are at \$60.00/year. Like everything else, our disposal costs are increasing and as fuel costs increase plus other vendor costs and our internal cost, we need to, at least, break even. The Saganing Tribe has helped us a bunch through grant requests we have submitted for equipment for both the Cemetery,

Transfer Station and Township Hall and we appreciate their generosity. So our word to all is, please visit the Saganing Casino and spend generously, as 2% of your losses are helping others in Arenac County!

WATER METER REVIEW ... There are about 35 meters in residences that have not yet been changed for one reason or another, or one excuse after another. We obviously cannot enter houses uninvited to change meters and must rely on the good will of homeowners to contact Miehl's mechanical at 989-233-5823 to schedule a time for them to install a new and improved meter. Failure to do so, may require the Sims Board having to enact a monthly or quarterly penalty for failure to comply with Ordinance 36. Meters are not owned by the property owner but by the township and the Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority. Municipal water systems are under the jurisdiction of EGLE (formerly DEQ) and ultimately, under the watchful eyes of Homeland Security. While we're at it, we should mention that tampering with a municipal water system can be considered a terrorist activity and at the least, a serious felony. A resident decides to move a water meter for whatever reason or bypass a meter, or steal water from a hydrant can result in contamination of the entire system and when caught, can result in fines and/or imprisonment. That kind of stupidity can really mess up a life and/or retirement.

FINAL THOUGHT ... "Spring is made of solid, fourteen-karat gratitude, the reward for the long wait. Every religious tradition from the northern hemisphere honors some form of April hallelujah, for this is the season of exquisite redemption, a slam-bang return to joy after a season of cold second thoughts."

- Barbara Kingsolver.