

THE SENTINEL

AMERICA'S HEARTLAND NEWS



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COMMUNITY UPDATES

Local Events, Traditions & American Values

Springfield and Rose: Partners in Protecting Our Community

The proposed Levy sand and gravel mine on Ormond Road is not just a Springfield Township issue — it is a regional one.

Levy owns approximately **422 acres in Springfield Township** and an additional **60 adjacent acres in Rose Township**. While the company has stated the Rose Township acreage will not be mined, the shared property line, truck traffic, noise, dust, and potential groundwater impacts do not stop at the township border. Homes, roads, and families in Rose Township will feel the effects.

Rose Township Supervisor Brad Stilwell and the Rose Township Board of Trustees recognized this reality. On July 15, 2025, they submitted a formal letter of opposition to Springfield Township officials. The letter focused on serious public safety risks from 160 daily gravel trucks traveling on Davisburg and Milford Roads, the threat to property values, diesel exhaust, silica dust, and the loss of the quiet rural character that residents in both townships value.

Many Rose Township residents have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Springfield residents at public meetings. Others have provided financial support to STEP's ongoing work. This partnership strengthens our collective voice.

Together We Stand — Two Important Meetings This Week

Please join us as we continue working side-by-side:

- **Springfield Township Planning Commission** Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 pm Springfield Township Civic Center *Levy Proposal Update is on the agenda.*
- **Rose Township Neighbor-2-Neighbor Meeting** Wednesday, July 29 at 7:00 pm Old Township Hall, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, MI

Neighbor-2-Neighbor exists to encourage open dialogue, community awareness, and thoughtful discussion of issues critical to the community.

Springfield residents are encouraged to attend both meetings as we join forces to protect both of our communities. Let's wear our red "Stop the Gravel Pit" t-shirts!

Thank You for Braving the Elements at the 4-H Fair

A heartfelt thank you to every resident who braved heat, rain, and wildfire smoke to visit STEP's information booth at the Oakland County 4-H Fair.

Several concerned citizens stopped by to learn more about the proposed mine and to sign our petition. One local resident who worked as a gravel hauler shared a powerful perspective: He said he would never want to drive his rig on Ormond Road because of serious safety concerns.

His comment is a reminder that we must keep the pressure on the Oakland County Road Commission. Please continue to share your concerns about routing 160 heavy gravel trucks per day onto narrow rural roads that serve homes, schools, and recreational users.

You can submit comments here: [Road Commission Contact Form](#)

Our Drinking Water Is Not a Theoretical Exercise

Levy claims it will operate a "closed-loop" water system. However, its own technical documents tell a different story.

In a May 17, 2025 Hydrogeologic Evaluation prepared by Barr Engineering for Levy, the company acknowledges it will still need **30 gallons of make-up groundwater per minute**.

That equals approximately **21,600 gallons every day** during the operating season — nearly **4 million gallons** withdrawn from our local aquifer in a single year.

Barr used a simplified screening-level calculation (the Theis equation) and predicted only 1.25 feet of drawdown at the nearest neighboring wells. The report then claims this “is not expected to affect neighboring wells.”

We should not accept that conclusion at face value. The estimate is not based on a fully calibrated numerical model with site-specific pumping tests. Perhaps this data is available, but public disclosure is severely lacking over the past few months. Additionally, many residential wells in this area are relatively shallow. Creating a large open mining lake permanently changes groundwater flow patterns and increases vulnerability to contamination.

Perhaps the township will prudently secure agreement from Levy to fund baseline testing of existing residential wells. However, **residents who do not want to wait can take action themselves.** Oakland County Health Division offers free water testing for bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, chloride, fluoride, and sulfate. Sample bottles are available through Environmental Health Services.

For more comprehensive testing that includes arsenic, lead, or other heavy metals, residents can use private laboratories. One local Michigan state-certified option is AquaTest Laboratories in White Lake.

Contact Information

County Health Division: 248-858-1280
AquaTest Laboratories: 248-698-9500

Protecting our drinking water cannot wait for modeling assumptions. **Baseline data matters now.**

Upcoming STEP Events

STEP exists to serve you and your families as we work together to protect the community we know and love. Please watch for more details on the following events and continue to stay engaged and united.

- **October** — Community Chili Cook-Off
- **December** — Community Pancake Breakfast

Contact Stephanie at snananahas7@gmail.com for more information or to be added to our email distribution list.

Stay Connected

Website: ProtectSpringfield.org

Facebook Group: [Mining Paradise – Springfield Twp](#)

Let's stay united to protect the beautiful community we love.