

Jim Living Geospatial Achievement Award

This award is presented to an IMAGIN member in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the IMAGIN organization, its geospatial professionals, colleagues, members and the public that it serves.

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The Professional Recognition Committee

Laurie A. Spencer



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The Professional Recognition Committee

Background

- ❖ Bachelor degree in Business – Spring Arbor
- ❖ Certified as a Michigan MMAO Level IV Assessor, and Personal Property Examiner
- ❖ Certified Training in Damage Assessment
- ❖ 30 years of continuous membership with International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
- ❖ Employed for 16 years with Grand Traverse County as Equalization Director, served 6 years (contractual) as Level IV Eq. Director for Leelanau County, now employed full time with Leelanau County as Eq. Director
- ❖ Awarded 2001 Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioner's Special Award (for GIS work – 1st in the state to move road centerline layer to a Geodatabase. Procedure was demonstrated at the 11th Annual IMAGIN conference).
- ❖ Developed an application to incorporate the dba's (Doing Business file) from Clerk's office, assessor's database, equalization database and local realtor's database.



Leelanau Enterprise

Serving America's Beautiful Place

Spencer named new county equalization director

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Leelanau County has a new equalization director, and she looks very familiar.

The county has hired its own part-time director, Laurie Spencer, away from Grand Traverse County. She will “replace” former full-time Leelanau County equalization manager Pam Zientek, who retired in June.

Spencer has been Equalization Director for Grand Traverse County for the past 16 years. She was hired six years ago as an independent contractor to oversee assessing work in Leelanau County, whose property values had risen to a level requiring a Level IV assessor by state statute.

“She is very anxious and excited to come on board,” said county administrator executive assistant Georgia Robertson. “It’s a win-win for everybody.”

Spencer was looking forward to working in Leelanau County.

“It’s a place I love,” said Spencer, who has family members who reside in Leelanau.

IMAGIN Service



- ❖ Laurie served on the Board of Directors of IMAGIN, and provided valuable input and services to advance the goals and activities of IMAGIN.
- ❖ She has consistently delivered high quality presentations at IMAGIN conferences, focusing on user-friendly, and easily accessible GIS data made available to government, private industry, and the general public.
- ❖ Laurie's professional life reflects a strong commitment to IMAGIN, data sharing, 'pushing the limits' to advance GIS tools and use, and exploring new ways to use GIS data to complete jobs faster, easier, and more efficiently.

About Laurie

- ❖ Married with 3 kids: 2 boys (Shandy and Steven) and a daughter, Sabrina.
- ❖ Proud grandmother!
- ❖ Likes old buildings, especially old schools.
- ❖ Loves genealogy.
- ❖ Likes to hunt for old, old, OLD relatives.
- ❖ Enjoys painting her fingernails fun colors! (*Not sure what holiday it is? Check out her nails!*)



Previous winner of GIS for Everyone Award (Grand Traverse County)!

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GIS for Everyone award winner Laurie Spencer of Grand Traverse County

Words from others

"For Laurie, vision of GIS's future in Grand Traverse County was never enough. She was always combining it with a venture or challenge. For her vision, she didn't just "stare up the steps" in developing the GTC GIS effort, but with her leadership and encouragement, she stimulated the staff to "step up the stairs" also. Thanks Laurie for all your efforts in building a Great GIS Dept. here at Grand Traverse County".

Rainer Reichert (GTC-GIS Analyst)

“Under the direction of Spencer, many enhancements have been made to the county (Grand Traverse) services. House numbering, 9-1-1 implementation, courthouse-wide and now countywide computer installation and in-house tax billing are a few areas which Spencer has either directed or had a major role.”

Quoted from article in Presque Isle Advance



Congratulations Laurie Spencer!
2012 *Jim Living* Geospatial Achievement
Award Recipient