



## FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

To outside observers, the work of local government may seem boring. For example, Scioto Township went through the annual process of formulating and adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning in April 2022. The current budget has a starting general fund balance of over \$7 million. This means that the Township is in a very secure financial position. We have revenue to pay our bills and meet payroll for the Township's employees plus a margin that is equal to well over a year of expenses. As I write this article, we're preparing for the annual audit, a financial report that is prepared with the help of an outside auditing firm and presented to the State Treasurer each fall. Both the annual budget and audit processes are vital to the operation of the local government.

By keeping up with core functions of the annual budget and the annual audit, the Township can build and maintain infrastructure and provide services to Township residents. Utilities Director Steve Wyzgoski's article on page 11 describes water and sewer infrastructure projects that will be invisible once the work is complete. Another Township construction project starting this summer is the next segment of the Zeeb Road Pathway, extending the pedestrian corridor north toward the Border-to-Border Trail along the Huron River. Most of this work is not attention-grabbing but makes a big difference to

the quality of life in Scioto Township.

Scioto Township continues to work with other Intervenor in the Gelman litigation for better monitoring and cleanup of the Gelman dioxane pollution. We pushed for a stronger consent judgment with the circuit court and continue to press for the Environmental Protection Agency to take a more active role in overseeing the cleanup.

In December of 2020, I began working with Trustees Knol and Courteau to launch a Township well-testing project. Our goal was to expand the area for testing beyond the known groundwater contamination plume, just north of the highway. For this project we drew on the expertise of our Township Attorney and the Township's environmental consultant for the Gelman litigation. In summer 2021 the Township began testing private wells in the area north of M-14 and I-94. As the article on page 6 explains, the multiple rounds of well tests conducted by the Township in the past year have detected low levels of dioxane in multiple private wells. The most recent round of well tests found dioxane in the neighborhood just south of the Huron River. These low levels of dioxane in the northeast area of the Township will support the Township's efforts for better monitoring and faster cleanup.



Sometimes the Township achieves very visible, enduring results. The Township's protection of the Renz Farm on Wagner Road will benefit current and future generations of Scioto residents. Scioto's Land Protection Consultant, Barry Lonik, provides the details in his article on page 9. Located on the west side of Wagner Road, south of Liberty Road, the Renz Farm was owned by the same family for 100 years.

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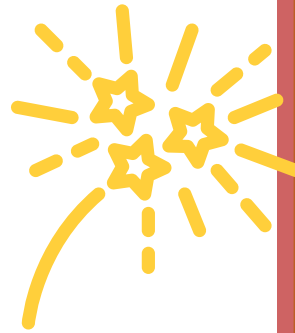
**Continued from page 1**

Without the Scio Township Land Preservation Commission's action and the Scio voter-approved land preservation millage funds, this farmland would likely have been developed. Instead, it will remain in agricultural use with an active farming operation.

I was privileged to participate in the closing of the Renz Farm property transfer on behalf of the Township. In addition to protecting over 100 acres of farmland, the complicated deal resulted in the Township owning 9.5 acres of land near the intersection of Liberty and Wagner Roads. This site will allow the Township the option of building a second fire station and needed infrastructure to maintain high quality water service.

The mundane tasks of local government and the occasional conflicts over how we carry them out sometimes overshadow our shared mission. We all work together to maintain and improve the community for current residents

and future generations. The protection of the Renz Farm, maintaining and improving our water infrastructure, planning for future fire protection expansion, creating a realistic and meaningful budget, and continuing the fight for environmental justice in the area of the Gelman plume, are accomplishments in which we can all take pride.



**FIREWORKS**

Love it or hate it, fireworks season is upon us. The Scio Township Board of Trustees grants (or denies) permission for major fireworks displays every year. Whether you will be close enough to see any displays this year, you and your loved ones, including those sensitized by loud noises (including pets), are likely to hear fireworks occasionally this summer. If you are thinking of shooting off fireworks yourself, remember that fireworks in Scio are restricted to the day before, the day of, and the day after a national holiday, and may not be released between the hours of 1 and 8 am. Please take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and your neighbors during this holiday season, either by enjoying fireworks displays at the allowable times and dates, or by avoiding them.

# LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

**WHAT IS THE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?**

Unless you work in the fire service or in the insurance industry, you have probably never heard of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) or know what it means to you. ISO is a rating company that evaluates local fire departments and assigns a numerical grade that insurance companies use to help determine homeowners' insurance rates. ISO scores a fire department from 10 to 1, with 1 being the best score a department can receive. Generally, a lower score (better fire protection) leads to a better (lower) insurance rate for home- and business-

owners in that jurisdiction, at least for the fire protection part of the equation.

Half of the ISO evaluation focuses on the Fire Department itself, especially staffing, how we respond, and training. Another 40 percent of the evaluation concerns the adequacy of the local water supply system and our ability to get water to areas without municipal water for fire suppression needs. Most of Scio Township is rated 6/6X: 6 in the areas serviced by municipal water and 6X in areas without municipal water. Areas that are more than 5 road miles from the fire station receive a 10 or 10W (more than 5 miles from the station but served by municipal water). In the US, there are 6,964 departments

**BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF  
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

that share our class 6 rating; 18,150 have a better rating than Scio, and 12,573 have a worse rating. The ISO rating should be considered when evaluating the service provided by a local government.

In 2019, Scio Township requested that ISO perform a review of the fire department, evaluating our capabilities and identifying areas where we could improve. The full report is available at [sciotownship.org](http://sciotownship.org), using the search term "Insurance Services Office."

# FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

BY WARSHA KULKARNI, ASSESSOR

would like to give the residents of Scio Township information on the July meeting of the Board of Review.

The Board of Review (BOR) is a group of three Township residents appointed by the Board of Trustees to approve/correct the tax rolls and hear taxpayer appeals.

This year the July BOR will be held on July 19, 2022 at the Township Hall. July BOR is subject to the rules of the Open Meetings Act. Residents do not have to appear before the Board of Review. If all the paperwork submitted is complete, then the Board will review and make decisions without further resident involvement.

## THE JULY BOARD OF REVIEW HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ACT ON:

- Correct Qualified Errors
- Appeals Related to Principal Residence Exemption
- Qualified Agricultural Exemption
- Taxable Value Uncapping
- Qualified Start-up Business Exemption
- Disabled Veteran's Exemption
- Poverty Exemption

## THE JULY BOARD OF REVIEW HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER:

- Changes in valuation
- A denial by the March Board of Review
- Classification of property

There are **VERY** limited conditions on which the July Board of Review can act. If you have any questions, please call the Township Hall at 734/369-9400 and ask for the Assessor's office.

# WELCOME BACK

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

May 11 was the first day for recently-retired Assessor Jim Merte to return to the Township Hall as interim Administrator, standing in for David S. Rowley, who announced his resignation at the April 12 meeting of the Board of Trustees. It was only last year that Jim's 43-year career with the Township was celebrated by Board Resolution, a going-away party, and a newsletter article thanking him for his years of service. Now, after less than a year of retirement, Jim has accepted the call from



the Township Board to fill the gap left by the departure of Administrator Rowley. "The Township is lucky to have available a seasoned

Township employee who is ready to step up to the challenge of this time," Hathaway said when

he brought forth the nomination at the Board meeting on May 10. Since then Jim has taken a deep breath and dived in. He says, "Although the tasks, priorities, and challenges in this role are miles-deep, my number one priority will be to help Board members work together for the betterment of the Township and service to its residents."



# FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

BY DONNA E. PALMER, TREASURER

Another tax year is about to begin. The July 2022 tax bills will be in your mailboxes soon. Those of you who have your taxes paid through an escrow account will not receive an actual bill, but at your request we will mail a copy to you.

**Please note, there is a correction entry on the 2022 July bill for Washtenaw County.** Two requests were inadvertently missed on the

winter tax bill that was sent in December 2021. We are billing the items on the July bill so as not to make it confusing in December. The 2021 taxing data will be used for these numbers.

Regarding tax payments, my usual message is PLEASE, allow enough time for your payment to reach our office by the due date. WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS as the date for payment. I suggest allowing at least five business days as

a minimum to reach us, maybe a couple more. Interest will start to accrue at 1 percent per month or portion thereof on September 15. Any bill not paid by February 14, 2023, will incur a delinquent fee of 3 percent on February 15.

Thanks to all for your support and have a great summer!

# CLERK'S COLUMN

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

## ELECTIONS UPDATE

All polling places will be open on **Election Day, August 2, 2022**, from 7 am to 8 pm for the State Primary election. See the precinct map opposite to locate your polling place. Our wonderful election inspectors will be there to open the polls at 7 am sharp, and anyone standing in line at 8 pm shall be permitted to vote.

To preview what will be on the August 2 State Primary ballot, stop by Township Hall to view a sample ballot or go online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote). This ballot has both a Partisan section where a voter may choose to vote in *either* the Democratic Party column or Republican Party column, *as well as* a Nonpartisan section.

More than half of Scio's 15,011 voters have received applications for Absent Voter ballots because they are signed up as Permanent Absent Voters. Anyone who would like to vote absentee may request an application in person here at Township Hall or via [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote). If you make an error when completing your Absent Voter ballot, the best thing to do is to bring it and a valid photo ID to the Clerk's Office to "spoil" your ballot and be issued a new one.

The Clerk's Office will continue to receive applications and issue Absent Voter ballots up until Monday, August 1, at 4 pm. You may return your Absent Voter ballot by mail, by dropping it in the secure ballot dropbox at Township Hall, or by handing it directly to the Clerk or staff inside Township Hall. You can follow your Absent Voter ballot from application through ballot issuance to receipt back at the Clerk's Office at that same website, [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote).

### VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THREE OPTIONS FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE:

- Use a Voter Assist Terminal at the Clerk's Office to complete an Absent Voter ballot through the use of assistive technology
- Use a Voter Assist Terminal at your polling place to complete a ballot through the use of assistive technology available at every polling place throughout Election Day
- Request an accessible absentee ballot through the Secretary of State at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote).

### Like all ballots voted at the polls, all Absent Voter ballots are counted on Election Day starting at 7 am when polls open.

I ask all Scio residents to fight election disinformation by seeking out information you can trust—call us here at Scio Township Hall if you ever have a question about the status of your registration or your vote. 734/369-9400. We are here to do everything we can to help you exercise your right to vote.

The Clerk's Office is located at the Township Hall and is open Monday through Friday, 8 am-4 pm. Additionally, we are open for voting-related matters on Saturdays, July 23 and July 30, 9 am-2 pm; and Sundays, July 24 and July 31, 1 pm-4 pm.

### TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FORUM

Check out the Democratic candidates for Scio Township Trustee on the ballot this August 2 at the League of Women Voters Candidate Forum available online at [my.lwv.org](https://my.lwv.org).

### PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Come to Township Hall or go online on Monday July 25 at 10 am to view the Public Accuracy Test of the ballot tabulators that will be used to count the ballots for the State Primary Election on August 2.

### REGISTER TO VOTE

**Online or by mail:** anytime through July 18

**In person only:** from July 19 through Election Day at 8 pm at the Clerk's Office

### PROFILE IN COURAGE

The Clerk's Office is proud to announce that the top election official in Michigan, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2022. Benson was chosen for fulfilling the duties of her office despite threats and harassment from those who challenged the results of the 2020 presidential election. She was joined by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, US Representative Liz Cheney, Arizona Representative Russell "Rusty"

Bowers, and Georgia election worker Wandrea' ArShaye Moss — each honored for displaying the courage to protect and defend democracy in the United States and abroad. According to the JFK Presidential Library and Museum, "There is no issue today more important than the fight for democracy. These honorees have placed their careers and lives on the line to protect democratic principles and free and fair elections."

# SCIO PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES

## PRECINCTS 1, 3, AND 6

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,  
1819 South Wagner Road

## PRECINCT 2

Scio Township Hall, 827 North Zeeb Road

## PRECINCT 4

Kiwanis Club, 100 North Staebler Road

## PRECINCT 5

Scio Farms Community Club House,  
6655 Jackson Road

## PRECINCT 7

Polo Fields Main Club House  
5200 Polo Fields Drive

## PRECINCT 8

Scio Community Church,  
1293 North Zeeb Road

 Precinct Boundaries

 School District Boundary

 State House District 33

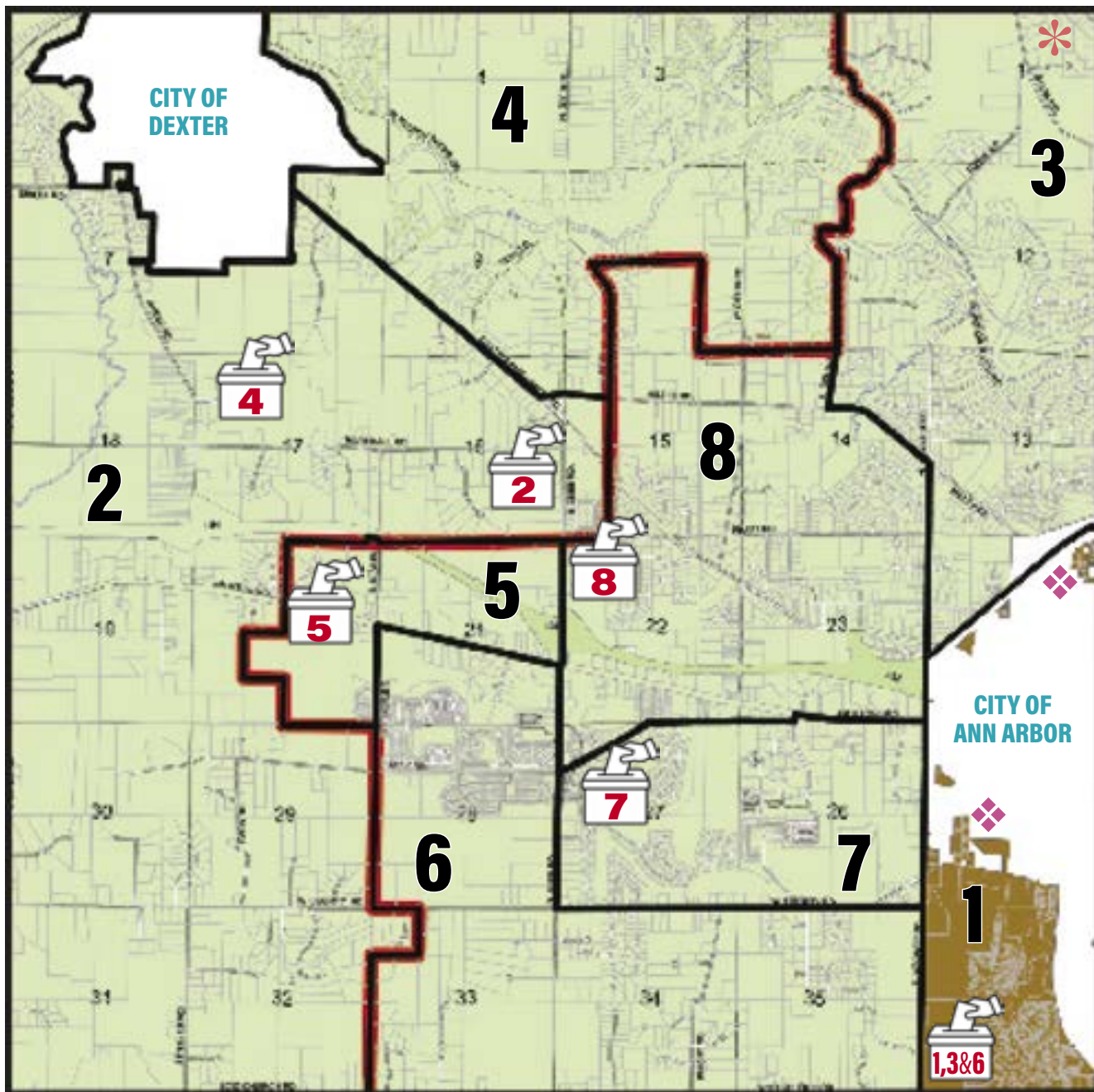
 County Commission  
District 9

 County Commission  
District 1

 State House District 47

 State House District 48

**Township-wide:** State Senate District 14, US Congressional District 6



# TOWNSHIP IDENTIFIES 8 MORE DRINKING WATER WELLS WITH 1,4- DIOXANE

**F**or years many residential wells in Scio Township have been sampled for 1,4-dioxane as a result of the large plume of groundwater contamination caused by the former Gelman Sciences facility located on Wagner Road. The Michigan Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE) contracts with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) to conduct long-term monitoring of drinking water wells within 1,000 feet of the estimated plume boundary. Approximately 218 drinking water wells are sampled either twice per year, once per year, or every other year, depending on proximity to the plume and nearby detections. Historically this sampling program has had a detection limit of 1 ug/L (or parts per billion, ppb). However, beginning in June of 2022, samples have been analyzed by the EGLE lab using a detection limit of 0.50 ppb.

**Due to concerns about potential movement of the 1,4-dioxane plume to residential areas located north of M-14, Scio Township has completed three rounds of sampling that expand on the state-funded program and use Method 522, a US Environmental Protection Agency analytical method that detects 1,4-dioxane down to 0.12 ppb.**

**The first round** of sampling, conducted in July and September of 2021, identified low levels of 1,4-dioxane at one location that had previous detections under the state-funded program and at two locations that had not been previously sampled. The two new positive test results

were below 1 ppb. One of these locations was a significant distance north of the estimated northern boundary of the plume as it was understood at that time.

**The second round** of sampling was conducted in November of 2021 and included 15 additional residences. This round of sampling identified four additional residences with low levels of 1,4-dioxane, all of which are located north of the estimated plume boundary. The levels of dioxane detected in the four residences ranged from 0.26 to 1.0 ppb.

**The third round** of sampling was conducted the week of May 16, 2022 and included 27 additional residences and a re-sampling of a residence from the second round. Eight additional residences were identified with low levels of 1,4-dioxane and re-sampling confirmed the presence of 1,4-dioxane in the residence from the second round. The levels of 1,4-dioxane detected in the nine residences ranged from 0.15 to 0.89 ppb. All eight residences with new detections are located north of the northernmost detection from the second round of sampling and are closer to the Huron River.

**There is insufficient data at this point to determine whether there is any impact on the Huron River.** These concentrations are below the State of Michigan drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane of 7.2 ppb. All other residences tested non-detect for 1,4-dioxane. The residents have all been informed of the sample results.

Township Supervisor Will Hathaway has worked

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE, AND  
WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

together with Trustees Kathleen Knol and Jacqueline Courteau to push for more data on the extent of the contamination and faster progress on the Gelman cleanup. The Township plans an additional round of testing using Method 522. Wells to be sampled in this fourth round of testing will be drawn from among applications received from property owners in the target area. **Apply to have your well tested and find more information about the well testing project, including a map of the wells that have already been tested, at [Sciotownship.org/Gelman](https://sciotownship.org/Gelman).** The Township will continue to coordinate with WCHD and EGLE regarding future sampling efforts. More information regarding 1,4-dioxane and the state-funded residential sampling program can be obtained at [washtenaw.org/1789/14-Dioxane](https://washtenaw.org/1789/14-Dioxane).

The Gelman Site is owned by PALL Life Sciences, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Danaher Corporation. There are no active plant operations. Historically, the plant manufactured filter devices and used dioxane as a solvent. Thousands of pounds of 1,4-dioxane were discharged to soil, surface water, and groundwater through seepage lagoons, land spray irrigation, and direct discharges at the site. The 1,4-dioxane groundwater plume, which currently is about four miles long and one mile wide, has polluted local lakes, creeks, residential drinking water wells, and a City of Ann Arbor municipal water supply well.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

BY JAN CULBERTSON, PLANNING CHAIR,  
AND THE SEAS TEAM

The Scio Environmental Sustainability Task Force is organized in five working groups, each focused on an area of community concern: (1) Energy and Buildings, (2) Natural Ecosystems & Sustainable Food Systems, (3) Transportation & Mobility, (4) Materials & Waste, and (5) Climate Resilience & Emergency Preparedness. We are collaborating with Washtenaw County to guide the development of Scio's Environmental Sustainability Climate Action Plan (ESCAP). The working groups have developed a preliminary framework of goals and strategies and are seeking community input to further shape our planning.

The Task Force welcomes the U-M's SEAS Masters Project Team and looks forward to their work with us! The U-M SEAS team is working alongside the Task Force to engage the Township community in climate action planning. These five graduate students at the University of Michigan's School for the Environment and Sustainability will continue working with the Task Force until April 2023 as part of their master's project. The ESCAP will include goals and strategies for reducing emissions and pollution and safeguarding the community against environmental hazards. We are interested in getting feedback from residents

so that we can share it with the Environmental Sustainability Task Force.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The SEAS project involves several steps to ensure that our community engagement reflects the diverse interests of Scio Township's residents. To do this, our team has been working on creating a public engagement survey which we will distribute to members of the Scio Township community. Survey questions will ask about support for various types of climate action in Scio Township and aim to get a sense of how community members feel about climate-related initiatives that could end up in the ESCAP. The information we collect through this surveying process will be shared with the Task Force in the fall. **Please take 10-15 minutes to complete the survey using the QR code below - we appreciate your feedback!** The survey is also available on Scio Township's website, at [SciOTownship.org/Sustainability](https://SciOTownship.org/Sustainability).



We will be asking homeowners associations and other organizations to distribute the survey. Check your inbox for an email from your HOA containing the survey. For those who prefer to take the survey in person and engage with our team members, we will be tabling at Township events over the course of the summer such as county cleanups and various Top of the Park events.

You may also find us at Township Hall during the days and weeks leading up to the August 2 election. Look for our poster with the QR code on it—you can take the survey while you're waiting for your ballot!

In addition to surveying the community, we will also be conducting interviews with stakeholders to get their insight into the feasibility of possible goals and actions. We will also conduct focus groups over this summer to have more informal discussions with community members. The feedback we get from these activities will be passed to the Task Force as they continue to work on the ESCAP.

Continue to check [SciOTownship.org/Sustainability](https://SciOTownship.org/Sustainability) for information about the working groups, ways to get involved, and resources for reducing your carbon footprint. Please feel free to reach out to the U-M student team if you have any questions or comments regarding the community engagement strategy, by email at [ScioCoreTeam@umich.edu](mailto:ScioCoreTeam@umich.edu).

## 50 MILLION TREES BY 2030

[1T.org](https://1t.org) is an international organization with a mission to conserve, restore, and grow 1 trillion trees by 2030 as part of an effort to accelerate nature-based solutions to climate change. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is a cooperative partner in this goal, pledging to plant more than 50 million trees by 2030. If you'd like to help, start by considering whether to plant a tree yourself.

- Spring and fall are the best seasons to plant trees, so you've got some time to consider where and what to plant
- Choose a tree that will thrive in your climate and soil type. Consider planting native trees and shrubs, which provide food and cover for wildlife
- Always consider the size your tree will be when it is fully grown and choose a spot that is an appropriate distance from buildings and above- and below-ground utilities. Call 811 before you dig to find underground utilities!

## WORK FOR THE MITTEN!

The State of Michigan has been ranked a top ten employer for new graduates in *Forbes* magazine's "America's Best Employers for New Graduates" list for 2022. The State of Michigan was ranked 8 out of 300 recognized organizations with at least 1,000 employees.

# WCRC SUMMER UPDATE

July is here and so are some major road and bridge improvement projects in Scio Township.

## The intersection of Liberty and Zeeb

**Roads** will close soon to ALL traffic for the construction of a single-lane roundabout. The closure is expected to last approximately 8 to 10 weeks.

Two local historic bridges will be repainted starting in early July. The **East Delhi Road Bridge over the Huron River** will be closed for approximately 2 weeks to ALL traffic during this project. The other historic truss bridge in Washtenaw County, the Maple (Foster) Rd Bridge in Ann Arbor Township, will be closed for approximately 12 weeks.

Lastly, we plan to wrap up our seal coat program in Scio Township later this summer. So far, we have chip sealed sections of Island Lake, Zeeb, Jackson, Miller, Newport, and Maple Roads. Once we have completed chip sealing,

crews will return within a few weeks to apply a fog seal that further seals in the stones. Our annual seal coat program helps to protect roads already in good or fair condition.

On the maintenance side of our work, WCRC crews will continue to grade unpaved roads, apply liquid brine dust control, patch potholes, mow, and much more. Local unpaved roads in Scio Township will receive three applications of dust control and one pass of roadside mowing between May and October.



BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Contact us to learn more about any of these projects or maintenance at 734/761-1500, [wcroads.org](http://wcroads.org), or follow @WashtenawRoads on Facebook and Twitter. We are located at 555 North Zeeb Road. Summer office hours are Monday – Thursday, 6 am – 4:30 pm.

Thank you for slowing down and giving road crews plenty of room to work this summer!

## WAYS TO BE COOL AND USE LESS ENERGY

- Eat light and spicy—small frequent meals, avoiding fried and salty foods (digestion raises your internal temperature); spicy food causes you to sweat, the evaporation of which is the original air conditioning
- Stay hydrated (but avoid coffee and alcohol when quenching your thirst)
- Wear thin, loose, and light-colored fabrics (cotton and linen transfer heat and moisture away from the body)
- Ice the pulse points on your wrists, neck, and shoulders
- Use fans to blow hot air out as well as cool air in
- Use blinds to keep direct sunlight from heating your house; make sure your windows seal well
- Unplug anything you can and install LED light bulbs—saving energy and the heat electronics and conventional light bulbs produce. (Source: [earth911.com](http://earth911.com))

## KEEP WORKERS SAFE

During the summer road construction season, SEMCOG reminds everyone that **WORK ZONES ARE WORK PLACES**. Orange barrels may seem inconvenient, but they are there to save lives. Slow down and use extra caution where workers are present. Check out [WalkBikeDriveSafe.org](http://WalkBikeDriveSafe.org).

## LOCAL ROADS

A new Local Road Advisory Committee has been formed to assist Township residents with questions and concerns about their local roads. Look for useful citizen information posted on the Roads Advisory Committee page, at [ScioTownship.org/LocalRoads](http://ScioTownship.org/LocalRoads). Contact us at [RAC@sciotownship.org](mailto:RAC@sciotownship.org).





# UNPRECEDENTED FARMLAND PRESERVATION PURCHASE

**S**ciio Township's Land Preservation program has purchased a conservation easement on a 101.361-acre property located on the west side of Wagner Road south of Liberty Road. Known as the Renz farm, the property had been in that family for 100 years in 2020, when Harold "Dick" Renz passed away and the estate applied for conservation. It is bordered by conserved land to the south and west. Conservation easements are permanent deed restrictions on the use of a property. Purchasing easements costs less than buying property outright and keeps the property on the tax rolls and contributing to the local economy. In this case, the conservation easement guarantees that this property will be farmland in perpetuity.

The purchase price for the Renz conservation easement was just shy of \$3 million, as the property was zoned agricultural but was anticipated by the township's master plan to become one-acre housing sites. **Funding was provided by Scio Township's dedicated millage with support from the Ann Arbor Greenbelt program, the Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program, the State of Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund, and the federal Agricultural**

**Conservation Easement Program.** This may be the first time anyone has leveraged five cash funding sources for a single land preservation project.

The property was immediately put into the Township's Buy-Protect-Sell program and offered for sale at \$320,000. A public Request for Proposals that emphasized sustainability and food production was published and an Open House was held on March 5. Seven proposals were received and Vestergaard Farms, LLC, was chosen by the Land Preservation Commission, who made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Vestergaard is a local livestock producer who practices rotational grazing and has plans to host a community garden and educational activities on food production at the property. This is the first time the Land Preservation Commission used this Board-approved public process called Buy-Protect-Sell to approve a buyer.

Scio Township's dedicated land preservation millage was approved by voters in 2004 and renewed in 2012, both by large margins. With the Renz farm, the Township has been involved in protecting 1,709 acres, with more projects set to close in the coming months.

BY BARRY LONIK,  
LAND PROTECTION CONSULTANT

## SATURDAYS AT SCIO PRESERVES HIKES ON!

Spend Saturday mornings hiking one of Scio Township's many public preserves. Hikes are guided tours led by members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Land Preservation Commission. 10-11:30 am on the first Saturday of every month:

**July 2:** See the Shingle Oaks at **Marshall Park**. Meet at Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd. and walk to Marshall on the Zeeb Road Pathway.

**August 6:** Pick berries together at a Scio-preserved farm! **Honeybee U-Pick/Tantre Farm**, 5700 Scio Church Rd.

**September 3:** Spot the summer wildflowers along the Huron River. **Osborne Mills Preserve**, 3710 E. Delhi Rd.

**October 1:** **Woodland Preserve/ Legacy Land Conservancy**, 3777 W. Joy Rd. Meander along a meandering creek! See what a natural creek system looks like when it's not channelized.

**November 5:** Hike through fields of wildflowers and groves of majestic oak trees. **DeVine Preserve**, 6110 W. Liberty Rd.

**December 3:** Explore the marvelous Mill Creek headwaters at **Sloan Preserve**, 1985 Baker Rd.



*The Renz conservation easement*



# RESIDENT INPUT NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROS PLAN

Scio Township is in the midst of revising its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan of 2018. With input from interested residents, members of the Master Plan Steering Committee, drawn from the Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), and the Land Preservation Commission (LPC), will complete and submit this project by February 1, 2023. Successful completion of the new PROS plan will make the Township eligible to pursue Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administered grant funding for the next 5 years, including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Recreation Passport, and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).



## IF YOU CARE ABOUT OPEN SPACE AND PARKS, YOU CARE ABOUT THE PROS PLAN. HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Complete the online survey between July 1 and August 5 available at <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/ScioPROS>, or use the QR code below\*



- Attend an Open House at the Township Hall on July 13, 5-7 pm
- Look for announcement of the month-long mandatory Public Review period this fall
- Attend meetings of the committees developing the PROS plan (see below for schedule)

\*Paper copies of the survey will be available at the front desk in the Township Hall.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Residents are encouraged to attend the remainder of the TAP, Parks, and LPC meetings through the summer. This is one of the best ways to have an impact on the evolving Plan as resident comments will be considered part of the mandated public participation in the Plan.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Transportation Alternatives Planning (TAP)

Committee: July 13 and August 10 at 4 pm

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB):

July 5 and August 4 at 5:30 pm

Land Preservation Commission (LPC): July 15

and August 11 at 3 pm

All meetings are held in the Township Hall and online via Zoom. Check the committee page for each meeting at [SciotoTownship.org](http://SciotoTownship.org) for links to the relevant agendas and Zoom.

There will be a final opportunity to influence the content of the PROS plan during a Public Hearing at the Board of Trustees meeting on December 13 at 7 pm, in the Township Hall and on Zoom.

# THE CONTINUING SAGA OF INVASIVE STILTGRASS IN SCIO

## JOIN IN THE SEARCH AND CONTROL OF INVASIVE STILTGRASS IN SCIO

By mid-June stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) has emerged across Scio Township and parts of Washtenaw, Lenawee, and western counties. Stiltgrass is an annual that can grow anywhere—full sun or deep shade, moist or dry soil. This floppy grass drops additional roots from the leaf nodes (hence, stiltgrass) and can sprawl many feet. One plant can produce from 100-1,000 seeds by late August/early September. Seeds are very lightweight and easily washed downhill. Lawns of stiltgrass can set seed at



*Stiltgrass with distinctive mid-leaf stripe*

3 inches. Woodland edges are a good place to spot infestations. A reflective silver stripe, running slightly off center, provides some help with identification (see photo).

BY ANDREA MATTHIES, STILTGRASS WORKING GROUP

This invasive is easily spread: Lawnmowers and other equipment suck up seeds and spread them across neighborhoods. Deer hooves plant seeds along their trails. Hikers and campers collect them on boots and equipment, which has expanded its range to Wisconsin and Ontario. Watch for stiltgrass—and clean your boots and equipment.

Report possible sightings with photos and exact location by email, [stiltgrass@gmail.com](mailto:stiltgrass@gmail.com), or call 734-210-0267.

# A WORD FROM THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

**S**ciotown currently has two construction projects in progress to improve water and sewer services to our customers. These are the Liberty Road Water Main and the Force Main Maintenance and ARV Replacement projects.

The Liberty Road Water Main is under construction from the south side of Liberty Road west of Wagner Road then crossing over to the north side of Liberty Road eventually connecting to the Scio Township system at Dornoch Drive in the Polo Fields subdivision. This loop will provide more reliable pressures and flows to our customers in the west side of our service area. Traffic was reduced to one lane earlier during construction but by the publication date of this newsletter,

there should be no impediments to through traffic. The Liberty Road Water Main Project is scheduled for completion this fall.

The Jackson Road Force Main Maintenance and ARV Replacement Project consists of the following two items: The majority of Scio Township's wastewater is collected at a pump station near Jackson and Zeeb Roads and transmitted to the Ann Arbor system by force main along Jackson Road to a manhole structure near Veteran's Park. Scio Township's sanitary sewer transmission system contains air release valves (ARVs) to vent sewer gasses that accumulate along the force main. The ARV at Jackson Road and Parkland Plaza was previously removed for service at which time severe corrosion was discovered on all

BY STEVE WYZGOSKI,  
UTILITIES DIRECTOR

equipment in the manhole resulting from the prolonged presence of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). Separately, an opportunity to reduce force main odors and pipe corrosion was identified and additional equipment will be installed at Dexter Avenue near Valley Drive in Ann Arbor. The traffic light at the Jackson Road and Parkland Plaza intersection may be unavailable for a short period of time while work is underway. This Project is scheduled for completion this July.

The 2021 Annual Water Quality Report is now available at [SciOTownship.org/WaterQuality](https://SciOTownship.org/WaterQuality). We are pleased to share these results as they indicate the continued outstanding quality of the drinking water provided from the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant to Scio customers' taps.

**UTILITIES DEPARTMENT HOURS** are 8 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday. For walk-in Utilities business, the rear Township Hall entrance is accessible until noon; use the Main Entrance from noon to 4 pm.

## SHERIFF WARNS RESIDENTS ABOUT PHONE SCAMMERS

Scammers are impersonating law enforcement, demanding money or gift cards for missed jury duty or other seemingly law-related matters. These calls can feel real but they are not. The Sheriff's Office NEVER calls anyone asking for money. If you receive one of these calls hang up immediately and report it to the police: 734/994-2911.

## SPREAD THE WORD!

"Whether a tree grows on a sunny farm in the country, as part of a manicured suburban backyard or overlooking neon city lights from a pot on an urban balcony, it matters!" says MDNR's Rachel Coale. "Large or small, every tree provides an environmental benefit that improves the community it grows in."

## JOIN TEAM SCIO!

Join the team of resident volunteers who advise the Board of Trustees! Currently there are openings on the Compensation Commission, Environmental Sustainability Task Force, and the Planning Commission. Apply online at [SciOTownship.org/TeamScio](https://SciOTownship.org/TeamScio). The filing deadline to run for the Trustee position that begins November 20 *for non-party affiliated candidates* is 4 pm on July 21 (these candidates first appear on the ballot in the state general election on November 8).



## BIRD FLU

The United States is experiencing its biggest avian flu outbreak since 2015. Bird flu is caused by an influenza virus, and spreads via direct and indirect contact. Owners of backyard birds, such as chickens or ducks, are advised to take down their wild birdfeeders to reduce the spread of the disease. Those willing to clean their outdoor birdfeeders often with a 10 percent bleach solution and don't have backyard birds, are ok to keep a birdfeeder out. "Report any sick or dead birds to the DNR so we can take them and test them," requested Megan Moriarty of the MDNR.



Scio Township Hall  
827 North Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

## To Scio Neighbor

# USEFUL CONTACT INFO

### TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 369-9400  
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 4 pm

**info@sciotownship.org**  
**clerk@sciotownship.org**  
**newsletter@sciotownship.org**  
website: [sciotownship.org](http://sciotownship.org)

### OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—  
[whathaway@sciotownship.org](mailto:whathaway@sciotownship.org)

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—  
[jflintoft@sciotownship.org](mailto:jflintoft@sciotownship.org)

Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—  
[depalmer@sciotownship.org](mailto:depalmer@sciotownship.org)

Jacqueline Courteau, Trustee—  
[jcourteau@sciotownship.org](mailto:jcourteau@sciotownship.org)

Alec Jerome, Trustee—  
[ajerome@sciotownship.org](mailto:ajerome@sciotownship.org)

Kathleen Knol, Trustee—  
[kknol@sciotownship.org](mailto:kknol@sciotownship.org)

Patrick McLaughlin, Trustee—  
[pmclaughlin@sciotownship.org](mailto:pmclaughlin@sciotownship.org)

[TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org](mailto:TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org)

### THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

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### UTILITIES

**In Scio:**  
8 am – 4 pm ..... (734) 369-9350

After hours.....(734) 651-4770

**In Dexter:**..... (734) 426-4572  
(with after-hours automated triage)

### In Loch Alpine:

Water or sewer emergencies. . .(248) 433-8904

Non-emergencies ..... (517) 715-9739

Account Management/Billing  
(office hours M-F, 5-8 p.m.) ... (734) 433-0835

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

1055 North Zeeb Road  
For emergencies ..... 911  
Business line ..... (734) 665-6001  
[Fire@sciotownship.org](mailto:Fire@sciotownship.org)

### WASHTENAW COUNTY

**County Water Resources  
Commissioner** ..... (734) 222-6860  
[drains@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:drains@ewashtenaw.org)

**County Road Commission** ..... (734) 761-1500  
[wrc@wcroads.org](mailto:wrc@wcroads.org)

### County Commissioners

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski  
[maciejewskij@washtenaw.org](mailto:maciejewskij@washtenaw.org)

District 9 – Katie Scott  
[scottk@washtenaw.org](mailto:scottk@washtenaw.org)

### County Sheriff Scio Station

For emergencies ..... 911  
Business line ..... (734) 994-2911

### STATE OF MICHIGAN

#### State Representative

District 52 - Donna Lasinski . . .(855) 627-5052  
[DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov](mailto:DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov)

#### State Senator

District 22 - Lana Theis. .... (517) 373-2420  
[senltheis@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senltheis@senate.michigan.gov)

#### Governor

Gretchen Whitmer ..... (517) 373-3400  
[gwhitmer@michigan.gov](mailto:gwhitmer@michigan.gov)

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

#### U.S. Representatives

District 7 – Tim Walberg..... (202) 225-6276  
[walberg.house.gov](http://walberg.house.gov)

District 12 – Debbie Dingell . . .(202) 225-4071  
[debbiedingell.house.gov](http://debbiedingell.house.gov)

#### U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow. .... (202) 224-4822  
[stabenow.senate.gov](http://stabenow.senate.gov)

Gary Peters.....(202) 224-6221  
[peters.senate.gov](http://peters.senate.gov)

#### President of the United States

Joe Biden.....(202) 456-1111  
[whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)