



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

Scioto Township had a busy, productive 2022. The Scioto team is working to produce more good results in 2023.

Last fall, the Township finalized an agreement with the fire fighters' union that will help sustain and strengthen that part of our team. The Scioto Fire Department has settled into its newly renovated station on N. Zeeb Road and added a new rescue vehicle that represents the first expenditure from the Township's allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The Fire Department shares the building with officers from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. Scioto Township currently contracts for eight officers who work shifts patrolling the Township. Together, the Scioto Fire Department and Sheriff Department outpost constitute an annual operating cost to the Township of around \$3.5 million for public safety services.

The Township formed the Fire Services Guidance Committee to recommend service improvements. Chief Houde describes the committee's work in his article on page 3. What level of service does the Township envision? Is a new fire station warranted in the near term? What are the costs for increasing fire safety services? These are some of the questions that the committee addresses in its report. To read the committee's full report, go to the Township website.

The Downtown Development Authority's vision

of bus stop shelters along Jackson Road finally became a reality just in time for the winter weather. There are now five new shelters at some of the busier bus stops. DDA Chair Bob Stites provides more information in his article on page 4. Thanks to the adjacent Jackson Road property owners for granting easements and assisting with maintenance.

In November, Township voters reaffirmed their support for land preservation. The 68% vote in favor of the renewal will extend the land preservation millage through 2033. In his article on page 4, Land Preservation Commission Chair Will Weber applauds Scioto's protection of over 1,700 acres since the millage was first approved in 2004 and looks forward to more collaborative work preserving additional agricultural land, open space, and natural habitats for future generations.

Scioto's well-testing program was launched in 2021 and concluded its fourth round of sampling in August 2022. The Township coordinated its testing program with the Washtenaw County Health Department. The County carries out state-funded well testing to detect the spread of groundwater contamination from the former Gelman Sciences facility on Wagner Road. Test results from the final round were received from the lab in the fall. Scioto conducted 122 residential well tests in all four rounds of sampling. The Gelman update on page 5 puts in perspective

the 26 wells that tested positive for low levels of 1,4 dioxane.

The Environmental Sustainability Task Force was launched by Scioto's Planning Commission in 2021. Planning Commission Chair Jan Culbertson's article on page 6 reports on the immediate, positive impact of grant-funded energy efficiency improvements to Township Hall and the anticipated benefits of the solar panels that will soon provide most of the

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electricity for the Fire Station.

Emily Kizer's article on page 8 describes the winter road maintenance work by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. This is Emily's final article for Scio's newsletter as she is leaving her communications position at the WCRC. Thanks for all your work to inform Scio residents Emily!

The Road Commission partners with the Township for road improvements and maintenance, including the culverts that channel stormwater from the roads. Some Road Commission projects in Scio, such as the 2022 construction of the Liberty/Zeeb roundabout, are completed without Township funding. Some Township Road improvements are done independently, with WCRC approval. The collaborative projects are done through cost sharing. The Township's Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) is reviewing projects to recommend those on which the Township should partner with the WCRC in 2023.

The Liberty Water Main project was initiated under the prior Board of Trustees. It has taken many years to bring to reality. Utilities Director Steve Wyzgoski describes on page 8 the progress made on the water main in 2022 and the final steps to complete the project in 2023.

Another major utility infrastructure project in 2022 was an improvement to the sanitary sewer line that runs down the middle of Jackson Road. Drivers may have been delayed last summer during installation of the replacement air release valve (ARV) near Parkland Plaza, but the improvement to the sewer system is worth the temporary inconvenience.

Scio Township is grateful to our state representative, House Minority Leader Donna Lasinski for all that she's done for the Township over her three terms. In her last two years in the legislature, Leader Lasinski secured State funding for the Zeeb Road Pathway and improvements to Park Road. An article by Roy Townsend and me on page 11 provides details about these infrastructure projects.

We have several new Scio team members. One key player is Anna Cone, Director of Parks, Preserves & Pathways. While serving as an intern from the University of Michigan, Anna discovered the blue heron rookery in the West Scio Preserves. Last summer, Scio was lucky to hire Anna to direct our efforts to expand access to nature preserves and build non-motorized pathways. Anna is profiled on page 11 and she authored an update on Parks, Preserves, & Pathways on page 10.

Three new trustees have joined the team:

Mark Brazeau, Jillian Kerry, and John Reiser. All three took office this past fall. Mark and John are briefly profiled on page 9. We hope to have a profile of Jillian in a future issue of the newsletter. Marc Thompson joined the team as interim Township Administrator in late December. Marc is also profiled on page 9.

Thank you to the three trustees who left the Board since the last newsletter: Jacqueline Courteau, Alec Jerome, and Patrick McLaughlin. I am glad to have served together with each of you over the past few years. Thanks also to Jim Merte who is stepping down after seven months as interim Township Administrator. Thank you for your service to Team Scio!

NOTARY PUBLIC AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT AT TOWNSHIP HALL

Call 734-369-9400 for an appointment



ARRIVE ALIVE

For information on a range of cold-weather driving challenges, such as planning a safe route, how to control your vehicle on slick roads, what to do in an emergency, passenger safety information, tire tips and more, visit Michigan.gov/WinterDriving.

RECYCLE!

"That can that contains Michigan-made cider could have come out of your neighbor's recycling bin and got processed into a new can, or it could have come from the ground in a bauxite mine in Australia, got shipped to Asia for processing and then got put on a boat and moved here," he said. "Four times the amount of greenhouse gas is saved by taking that already-mined aluminum and turning it into a new can." – Matt Flechter, recycling market development specialist for EGLE (Source: Michigan.gov/mienvironment)

MICHIGAN ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This winter Governor Whitmer authorized \$54.5 million in Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grants to local agencies to help families pay for heat and energy. Assistance from MEAP can cover full or partial payment of one or more bills for electric, natural gas, propane, heating oil, or any other deliverable fuel used to provide heat. Contact your utility company or propane supplier as soon as you know you will be unable to pay your bill on time. Don't wait for a shutoff notice or put yourself in a situation where you might run out of fuel. Call 211 or go to mi211.org to get in touch with these local agencies that may assist with your energy bill.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As Scio Township continues to grow, we need to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the community. In October 2022, the Township Board authorized appointment of a Fire Services Guidance Committee to review options for improvement of fire protection within Scio Township. The committee was tasked with making improvement recommendations to the Township Board and to help project how much these improvements would cost. One question is whether a second fire station is warranted.

The committee is comprised of eight members. We accepted everyone who applied: one representative of the Township Board, one firefighter representative, and one member from the planning commission. Others include residents from rural and urban areas of the community and business owners. Our goal was



BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

to involve as many perspectives as possible in formulating recommendations to the Township Board, and ultimately to the residents of Scio Township.

The committee met weekly beginning in October and wrapped up in mid-December. **There is a special meeting of the Township Board scheduled on January 17 at 7 pm for the Fire Services Guidance Committee to present its recommendations.** All materials and documents related to the committee's work, including the Committee's report, are publicly available on the Township website by searching "Fire Services Guidance Committee."

Left: Scio Fire Department live fire training exercise June 2022

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

We are nearing the end of the 2022 Tax season. (Where did 2022 go!) If you have not received a 2022 tax bill, please call our office immediately!

The end of the 2022 calendar year, and now the end of the tax year, have been busy. If you still

have not paid your tax bill, try to do so before February 14th, the last day before a delinquent fee of 3% is added. February 28th is the last day you can pay at Scio Township. Unpaid taxes are turned over to the County Treasurer's office on March 1st. The County's delinquent fee is 4% plus the March interest of 1%.

BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

I thank you for your smiles and kindness. I wish I could greet all of you as you come into the office. Many thanks for your support.

Donna E. Palmer, Scio Township Treasurer



ASSESSOR'S UPDATE

Just a friendly reminder that the 2023 assessment notices for real property (residential, commercial & industrial property), will be mailed mid-February.

The assessment notice will contain important information regarding the property values that will be used to calculate your 2023 summer & winter (July and December) tax bills. Should you wish to appeal the assessed value of your

property, the March Board of Review is your only opportunity to do so. The dates & times of the March Board of Review will be printed on the assessment notice.

Also, for businesses that file a Business Personal Property Statement or Small Business Exemption form, those are required to be completed and returned to our office by the filing deadline of February 20, 2023.

BY ANDREA L. GARRETT,
SCIO TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Please verify that we have your correct mailing address on file. Taxpayers can verify their address by logging onto the Scio Township website and checking there or giving our office a call at 734-369-9400. Thank you.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BY BOB STITES, CHAIR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Scio Township DDA is glad to announce the completion of five new bus shelters along the Jackson Blvd. They are located in front of:

- Scio Farms
- Meijer on the corner of Zeeb and Jackson
- Parkland Plaza Road
- LaFontaine Auto Dealership
- Trinity Health IHA Healthcare Center

One of the responsibilities of the DDA is to ensure safe conditions in our commercial district, regardless of the means of transportation. This includes walking, driving, biking and bus riding.



Pictured from the Scio DDA are: Jeff Harshe, Sandy Egeler, Bob Stites, Linda Smith, Jennifer Tankanow, Will Hathaway.

Not pictured: Jay Holland, Gus Boutsikakis, Sandy Musser, Maureen Sloan, and Ryan Yaple.

Photo credit: Monique Sakalidis

SUPPORT FOR SCIO LAND PRESERVATION

BY WILL WEBER, CHAIR
LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Scio Township voters supported renewal of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program by more than a 2 to 1 majority in the November election. The nationally acclaimed program acquires title or conservation easements from willing sellers or donors to preserve agricultural land, open space, and natural habitats. It will now be funded through 2033.

The Scio Land Preservation Commission (SLPC), made up of township residents, has recommended protection of more than 1,700 acres in the township, often in partnership with other agencies. Landowners may apply to the Township Land Preservation Program. Most easements or title acquisitions are for parcels of more than 10 acres and the purchase price is guided by an independent appraisal and survey. In many cases a conservation easement

purchase provides a landowner substantial cash payment and possible property tax reduction with no change of current land use or obligation of public access.

The long-running success of the Scio program, first approved by voters in 2004, inspired ballot initiatives in Dexter and Northfield Townships, which also passed in the November election. The Scio .50 mil assessment is predicted to raise about \$7,000,000 over 10 years. Scio funds are typically matched with funds from Washtenaw County, the State of Michigan, the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt and/or the federal government resulting in more and larger purchases than our millage alone could cover.

The Scio Land Preservation Commission meets each second Thursday at 3:00pm in the township meeting room. Current members are Martha Mayo, Lisa Pappas, Tim Redmond,

Liz Wiseman, Jeannine LaPrad, John Reiser (trustee) and Will Weber (chair). Extensive technical support is provided by land protection consultant Barry Lonik.



GELMAN UPDATE

Readers of this newsletter know about the groundwater contamination caused by the former Gelman Sciences facility. The Gelman Site on Wagner Road is now owned by PALL Life Sciences, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Danaher Corporation, and there are no active plant operations. When it was active, 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 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 around the plume. Approximately 218 drinking water wells are sampled either twice per year, once per year or every other year, depending on proximity to the estimated plume and nearby detections. The State-funded well sampling program has had a detection limit of 1 ug/L (or part per billion).

Because of concerns about potential movement of the 1,4-dioxane plume to residential areas located north of M-14, Scio Township decided to launch its own residential well testing program. Between fall of 2021 and August 2022, Scio completed four rounds of sampling which expanded on the state-funded program and used a testing method which detects 1,4-dioxane down to 0.12 ug/L. The initial round of testing found wells with low levels of dioxane further west and north of the known groundwater contamination plume. The second and third rounds confirmed the northern detections by locating a total of 14 wells with low dioxane results.

Scio's fourth round of sampling was conducted the week of August 22, 2022 and included 63 additional residences. This round of sampling identified ten additional residences with low levels of 1,4-dioxane, all of which are in

the area where previous sampling occurred between M-14 and the Huron River. The levels of 1,4-dioxane detected in the ten residences ranged from 0.17 ug/L to 1.3 ug/L. The concentrations are below the State of Michigan drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane of 7.2 ug/L. All other residences tested non-detect for 1,4-dioxane. The residents were informed of the sample results.

The Township's environmental consultant sampled a total of 122 private wells in all four rounds. Of that total, 26 wells showed the presence of 1,4-dioxane. All the wells were sampled using a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 1,4-dioxane analytical method for residential wells, Method 522, which has a detection limit of 0.12 ug/L. This testing method is more sensitive than the 1,4-dioxane analytical methods used by Gelman or the state-funded program. However, beginning in June of 2022, the EGLE lab began analyzing samples using a detection limit of 0.50 ug/L.

Scio Township initiated its testing project in 2021 to push for more data on the extent of the contamination and faster progress on the Gelman cleanup. Scio's efforts have included advocating for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to become involved with the cleanup.

The quarterly Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD) meeting with EGLE representatives was held on 12/6/22. EGLE shared results from recent surface water testing for dioxane conducted in the Ann Arbor area. There are several findings relevant to Scio Township.

While there have been no detections for the last three years at First Sister Lake or Second Sister Lake, the Third Sister Lake, which is in Saginaw Forest, in Scio Township, showed a level of 98 ppb. This represents an increase from the prior level of 57 ppb. Little Lake, northwest of the Third Sister Lake, tested at 6.6 ppb, up from

4.2-4.7 ppb in the prior two years. EGLE test results also showed slight increases in dioxane in Honey Creek and some of its tributaries in Scio Township.

Neighboring Ann Arbor Charter Township conducted testing of eleven residential drinking water wells in October 2022. One well, located close to Scio Township, tested at 9.1 ppb. The owner of that well has been advised by Washtenaw County Environmental Health to use bottled water.

The Ann Arbor Charter Township well is located more than one mile from the estimated dioxane plume delineated by the State of Michigan. It is about a half mile from Huron River and the plume appears to be moving toward Barton Pond, which is a major source of water for the City of Ann Arbor. Scio Township and Ann Arbor Charter Township both purchase water from the City. The safety of the City's Barton Pond water supply has implications for those Township residents who rely on municipal water. At this point there isn't enough data to determine if there is an impact on the Huron River.

Scio Township does not have plans to conduct additional sampling of private wells. The Township will continue to coordinate with WCHD and EGLE regarding future sampling efforts and advocate for the creation of additional monitoring wells in the area north of M-14.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD) [Washtenaw.org](#)

Scio Residents for Safe Water (SRSW) [SRSW.org](#)

EGLE Gelman website [Michigan.gov/EGLE](#)

USEPA Gelman website [EPA.gov/MI.gelman-sciences](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

SCIO TOWNSHIP CARBON FOOT PRINT REDUCTIONS

This summer, Township Hall completed an LED light fixture upgrade and retro-commissioning work with grants from EGLE and the Ann Arbor 2030 District. 114 fixtures were replaced and the remaining light bulbs are continuing to be replaced through maintenance. You can see the performance improvement in the chart of electricity usage on the following page.

The Township Board also approved a 376 KW DC ground mounted solar PV system for the fire station, which will provide approximately 76%

of the fire department's and 33% of the sheriff's electricity. By installing the system in 2023, the township will receive a direct payment of 30% of the cost of the system in lieu of a tax credit.

TASK FORCE UPDATE

In the meantime, please view the working group presentations to a joint meeting of Scio Board and Planning Commission on goals and strategies. Check out our page on the Scio Website for updates.

Suggestions or comments are welcome via email: Environmentalsustainabilitytaskforce@sciotownship.org

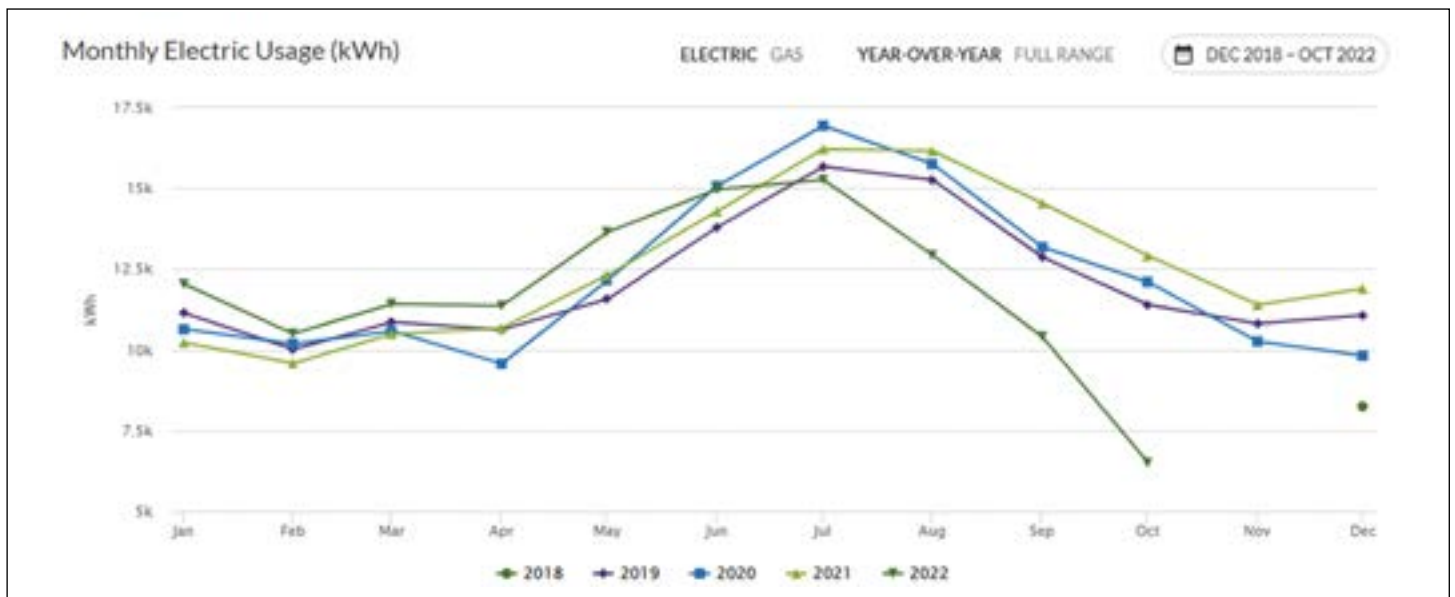
BY JAN CULBERTSON, CHAIR,
PLANNING COMMISSION



Fran Szuma toils away while the energy efficient lighting is installed above her desk at Township Hall.



This view shows the planned location of the solar panels to be installed at the Fire Station.



Township Hall annual energy use by month for 2018-2022. The noticeable decline in energy use occurred after the efficiency improvements in 2022.

An average Michigan household uses 650 kWh of energy per month. To see how your participation in MIGreenPower promotes clean energy, please **enter your monthly usage in the box below.**

kWh per month Find your [energy usage data](#) in kWh.

Program Options	Added Clean Energy	Total Clean Energy	Equal to Planting	Equal to Removing	Monthly Cost
Flex - \$0.0002 / kWh	— 85% +	100.0%	148.6 trees	1.2 cars	- \$0.14

DTE already provides 15% of your energy from renewable resources. If you match 85%, you'll go 100% clean!

TAKE THESE NO COST STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IN 2023

RENEWABLE POWER ENROLLMENT WITH DTE

The Task Force encourages Scio residents to enroll in DTE's MIGreen Power Program. MIGreen participants receive a slight reduction in their electric bill. This rate will hold until at least June and you can change your enrollment at any time! Google MIGREEN Power to enroll and save a few cents and reduce your emissions!

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND SAVE THROUGH THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

From making home weatherization and efficiency upgrades, to installing new electric appliances, to purchasing an electric vehicle or rooftop solar system – learn how the Inflation Reduction Act will help cover the costs and save you money each month on your bills.

Want updates on these rebates and tax credits? Sign up on the Biden administration's new consumer-oriented website, [whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/?utm_source=www.cleanenergy.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/?utm_source=www.cleanenergy.gov) which is expected to be updated as the law moves through implementation. A draft of the plan will be ready this spring.

RECYCLE YOUR PHONE

Donating or recycling cell phones is a great way to conserve resources. For every million cell phones recycled, 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered, according to the United States EPA. Before recycling your electronics, always delete all personal information. Find a place to recycle your cell phone locally at search.earth911.com.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Problems with any of these?
Report it.
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

- Sweepstakes, prizes, lotteries
- Phone, internet, TV service
- Online shopping
- Fake family emergency calls
- Callers pretending to be from the government
- Jobs and money-making opportunities
- Fake IRS calls
- Auto sales and repair

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR?

Sometimes it feels like winter is the most wonderful time of the year, other times it feels like it will never end. Here at the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), we can certainly relate to those feelings.

We are responsible for winter maintenance on more than 1,600 miles of public roads across the county, including approximately 75 miles in Scio Township.

OUR CREWS RESPOND TO A WINTER STORM BASED ON A PRIORITY SYSTEM:

PRIMARY ROUTES

The most highly traveled roads in the county. When it is snowing, we focus all our efforts

to keep these routes passable for emergency vehicles and other travelers.

Examples: I-94, M-14, and county paved primary roads including Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd, Jackson Rd, Wagner Rd, etc.

SECONDARY ROUTES

Subdivision roads and unpaved roads. These will be addressed once the primary routes are in good shape. If it starts to snow again, snowplows will leave their secondary routes to go back to primary routes.

If you see our trucks out this winter, please slow down and give them plenty of room to

BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

work. You can learn more about our winter maintenance practices at wcroads.org/faq/winter-maintenance/

Like many organizations, we are hiring full-time CDL drivers and mechanics. If you or someone you know is looking for a full-time job with comprehensive benefits, check out our job postings and apply online at wcroads.org.

Questions? Contact us at (734) 761-1500, wrcr@wcroads.org, and follow @WashtenawRoads on social media.



Snow Plowing Priorities

Primary Routes: The most highly traveled roads in the county. When it's snowing, we focus all of our efforts to keep these clear for emergency vehicles and all travelers.

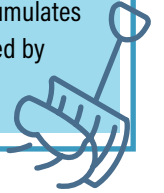
Examples: I-94, US-23, M-14, M-52, US-12, county paved roads

Secondary Routes: Local roads like subdivisions or unpaved roads. These will be cleared once the primary routes are cleared, if it starts to snow again, snowplows will leave these roads to go back to primary routes.

WASHTENAW

REMEMBER...!

Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in good repair and free from ice, snow, and other obstructions. Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleared by 6 pm the following day; snow that accumulates during the day must be cleared by noon the following day.



LIBERTY ROAD WATER MAIN UPDATE

The Liberty Road Water Main Project is being constructed to provide redundancy in the Scio Township water distribution system by connecting existing water main along the north side of Liberty Road between Eagle Avenue (Polo Fields Subdivision) and Wagner Road.

To date, approximately 85% of the 8,000 feet of water main has been installed. The Phase I portion, from the Nie Funeral Home along

Liberty Road thru the southern limits of the Scioview development stopping short of the Polo Fields Gold Course, was constructed this past summer. Earlier this fall, the section of Phase II water main from Eagle Avenue to Dornoch Drive and the Phase III connection at the corner of Dornoch Drive and Polo Fields Drive were completed.

The remaining water main along the Polo Fields Golf Course is scheduled to be installed in

STEVE WYZGOSKI, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

early 2023. After the water main is complete, two control valve vaults and associated remote monitoring equipment will be installed to regulate the flows between the easterly Uplands Pressure District and the westerly Jackson Road Pressure District. The project is scheduled to be complete and fully operational in the fall of 2023.

INTRODUCING SCIO TOWNSHIP'S NEW TRUSTEES

Three new members of Board of Trustees took this fall. Their terms of office extend to November 2024.

MARK BRAZEAU



Mark has lived in Scio Township for over thirty years. He has founded and led several successful technology companies, most recently *DryvIQ*. Mark

brings his skills as an organizational leader to the Township Board, in particular his passion for team building and data-driven decision making. In addition to his successful business career, Mark worked in various community non-profit organizations both locally and abroad. Mark was appointed to serve as trustee starting in September 2022.



Clerk Flintoft administering oath of office to John Reiser

JOHN REISER

John lives in the Ravines subdivision in Scio Township. He currently works as an assistant city attorney for the City of Ann Arbor. John has worked as an assistant prosecutor for both Washtenaw and Oakland Counties. He has served on boards ranging from the State Bar Association to the Ypsilanti Township Planning Commission. He serves on the Ravines Homeowners Association Board. John was appointed on October 25 and began serving as a trustee that same night.

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

JILLIAN KERRY

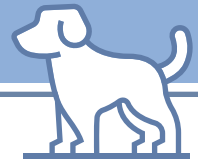
Jillian was elected as a Scio Township trustee on November 8, 2022 and sworn in effective November 20.



Clerk Flintoft administering oath of office to Jillian Kerry

DOG GONE!

Check out Midoglicense.org to apply for a dog license from the comfort of your home or local vet's office. It's quick, cheap, helps your dog find their way if lost, and the fee supports local animal shelters.



MARC THOMPSON TO SERVE AS INTERIM TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

The Board of Trustees voted on December 13, 2022 to engage Marc Thompson to succeed Jim Merte as Interim Township Administrator. Marc retired in 2019 after 28 years as Village Manager for Ottawa Hills, Ohio where he currently resides. Marc brings his 42 years of municipal government management experience to inform his work as Scio Township's chief administrator.

Since his retirement Marc has held interim positions with the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Fraser, Michigan. In the position of interim City Manager for Fraser, he brought stability



Interim Township Administrator Marc Thompson in his former office at Village of Ottawa Hills, Ohio.

Photo credit: The Toledo Blade.

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

to the City's administration and established necessary financial controls while laying the groundwork for success of a long-term City Manager. Marc received his BA and Master of Public Administration Degrees from Kent State University. Marc commented, "Everyone I have met has been extremely gracious and clearly has the best interest of Scio Township at heart. I look forward to joining the Scio Township Team with an immediate focus on formulation of the FYE 2024 budget. We need to complete that process by the March 31 deadline."

SCIO PARKS, PRESERVES, AND PATHWAYS

The Township's effort to create public access to nature preserves and build pathways has benefited from the work of two advisory bodies. The Parks Advisory Board was created in 2015 and the Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee followed in 2017. At first these two groups worked independently, but their missions became increasingly aligned as TAP focused on creating non-motorized pathways. When Scio voters approved the Parks & Pathways millage in August 2020, the two committees were each, separately advising the Board of Trustees on how to use those funds.

In 2022, PAB and TAP proposed to merge into a single committee to work more efficiently. Having one committee advise on projects supported by the millage is consistent with how most other Townships in Michigan manage their Park systems, pathway networks and open spaces. The Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Parks, Preserves & Pathways (PPP) Committee at its December 13, 2022, meeting. The new committee will continue to work on creating access to the Township's nature preserves and constructing additional segments of the pathway network.

One important pathway project is the subject of a State of Michigan grant application for which the Board gave approval in December. The

project is entitled, "Scio West Trail: Connecting Scio Farms to West Scio Preserve and Staebler Road." The concept is for the Scio West Trail segment to run along the southern edge of Scio Farms, a manufactured home community of 913 residences, and thereby connect those residents to the 217-acre West Scio Preserve. In addition to connecting Scio Farms to West Scio Preserve to the west, the trail will connect to the pathway segment that runs through the Woodview Commons development, up to Jackson Road and east to Staebler road, where there is access to pathways running through the Trailwoods subdivision and along Park Road. This portion of the Scio pathway network will directly serve the residents of

BY ANNA CONE, DIRECTOR PARKS, PRESERVES & PATHWAYS

five subdivisions, Arbor Pointe, Country French Estates, Trailwoods, Scio Farms, and Woodview Commons. Please see the aerial of the West Scio Trail Concept depicted by a yellow dashed line and labeled "West Scio Trail Concept Plan." The blue line is the pathway that will be built as part of the Woodview Commons development.

Initial appointments to the new Parks, Preserves & Pathways Committee are Heather Berkovitz, Chris Cheng, Rita Clinthorne, Steve Kern, Patrick McLaughlin, and Roy Townsend. Scio residents interested in working on the PPP Committee are encouraged to apply through the Township website.



WELCOME ANNA CONE

ANNA CONE IS DIRECTOR OF PARKS, PRESERVES, AND PATHWAYS

Scio Township hired Anna Cone as Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Director in July 2022. Anna attended Cornell University for undergrad and got her Masters in Ecosystem Science and

Management at University of Michigan. She worked as a summer intern with Scio in 2021, conducting comprehensive bird and vegetative surveys of Township properties.



SCIO OUTSIDE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

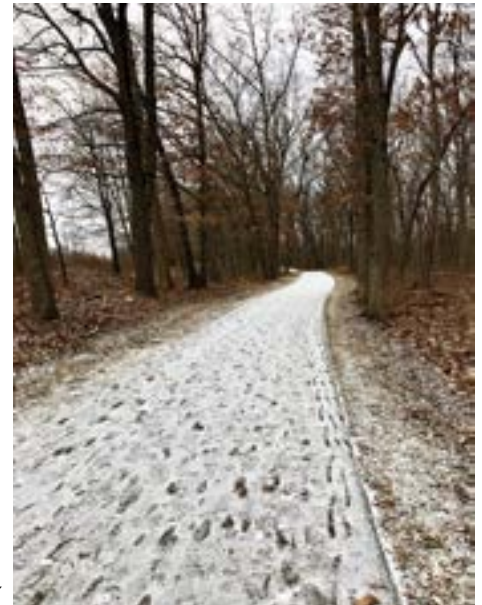
Whether you want to get your hands dirty in land stewardship, or walk the trails birdwatching, there's a program for you.

This season Scio Outside volunteers did trail development, invasive species management, wild crafting and more! Get on the Scio Outside listserv to receive emails about land stewardship opportunities and recreational programs. sciotownship.org/community/scio-outside-form



Scio Outside volunteers at Marshall Park

Winter path in Dexter Huron Metropark



STATE FUNDING HELPS PATHWAY PROGRESS

Scio voters overwhelmingly approved the Parks and Pathways millage in 2020 and that action is now yielding tangible results. The millage funds have enabled the Township to leverage additional support. Our state representative, House Minority Leader Donna Lasinski was able to secure funding from the State of Michigan to help pay for pathway construction and make other pedestrian safety improvements in the Zeeb Road corridor, two grants in 2021 and another grant of State funds in 2022. In all, Leader Lasinski has helped Scio Township obtain \$3.2 million from the State for these infrastructure projects.

Some of the State money has already been invested in completion of the most recent phase of work on the Zeeb Road Pathway. The segment completed in 2022 extends the pathway northward to Peters Road. A preliminary engineering study of the Huron River crossing will lay the groundwork for what will be the most ambitious segment of the project: a pedestrian bridge and ascent up the north slope to connect with the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail. The preliminary engineering will enable the Township to apply for federal grant funds for the pedestrian bridge across

the river. A second engineering study is already underway to assess the options for pedestrian safety improvements to the Zeeb Road/I-94 overpass.

Park Road west of Zeeb is another, long-anticipated road improvement project slated to receive a portion of the State funds. The Trailwoods development is responsible for paving Park Road from Staebler to Cedar Ridge Drive and will include a paved pedestrian path to the edge of the Trailwoods subdivision. The State grant obtained by Leader Lasinski will help pay for finishing that pedestrian pathway and paving the remaining segment of Park Road to connect with Zeeb Road. The Township's Roads Advisory Committee is currently reviewing a proposal to use funds from the Township-wide Special Assessment District for this project. Addressing Park Road's deteriorated condition was on the list of priority projects for the Township-wide Road SAD when it was created in 2012. It is the one remaining item from that original list to be addressed.

Leader Lasinski is finishing her final term as state representative in January. Scio Township is grateful for her work over the past six years.

BY ROY TOWNSEND, FORMER CHAIR OF TAP COMMITTEE, CURRENT VICE-CHAIR OF ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

Future generations of Scio residents will benefit from the vision of a pedestrian pathway network that Leader Lasinski helped make a reality.



Leader Donna Lasinski, Director Anna Cone, and Supervisor Hathaway at the location of the future Zeeb Road Pathway pedestrian bridge over the Huron River.
Photo credit: Emma Heaton.



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Postmaster: leave with current resident

To Scio Neighbor

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