



## Funding Scio Township Government

Serious discussions continue on the finances of the Township in the light of the failed public safety special assessment millage in the August election. The financial snapshot is the official independent audit. The audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 was presented in September by the firm of Plante-Moran. The Township received an “unqualified opinion”, which is the highest possible recommendation. Since the entire document is available for your full inspection on the Township website, only some important major points are summarized here.

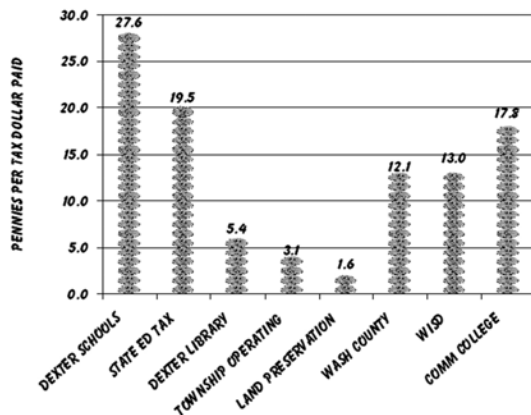
Taxes are calculated by the millage rate. Each taxing unit determines their own millage rate to be levied. Scio Township maintains one of the very lowest millage rates in the County (especially since 1/3 of the Scio millage can only be used for land preservation purposes). The comparison rates for 2005 follows:

Ypsilanti City	29.0301	Superior Twp	5.6113
Ann Arbor City	16.8156	Pittsfield Twp	5.1950
Saline	15.5300	Webster Twp	3.6600
Dexter Village	13.7063	Ann Arbor Twp	3.4137
Chelsea	13.2109	Saline Twp	1.9510
Ypsilanti Twp	10.4000	York Twp	1.8553
Northfield Twp	9.6753	Scio Twp	1.4513

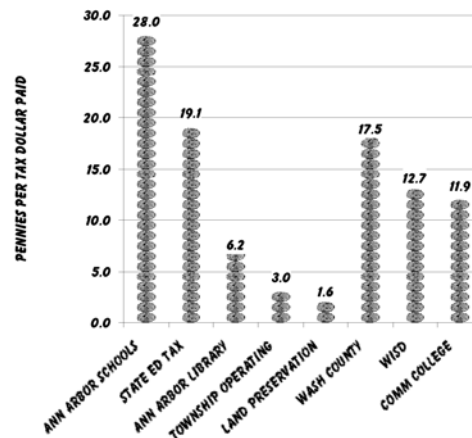
People pay all of their taxes “to the Township”. But keep in mind that the Township, by law, collects property taxes for all taxing units. Out of every dollar of the taxes that you pay to the Township Treasurer in a year, the Township keeps only 3 cents. Your tax dollar represents the following (depending on your school

*(Continued on page 6)*

Dexter School District Millage Dollar (2005)



Ann Arbor School District Millage Dollar (2005)



## From the Supervisor's Desk

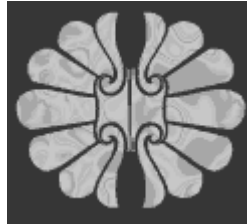
### LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

The recent defeat of the Public Safety Millage has posed a set of challenges to both the Township Board and the Public Safety Study Committee. The challenge for the Board is to continue to provide Police and Fire services from a dwindling budget. The challenge for the Committee is to develop a solution to pay for Public Safety and to educate the voters on the intricacies of our community's budgetary problems. Do you want to be part of the solution? Then stop by the Township Hall and complete an application for membership in the Public Safety Study Committee; we have openings. Please ask about volunteering for other committee participation as well..

For example, we have just started a Local Roads Committee that will study and advise on local road improvements and maintenance (but will not be a public forum for all road complaints). We still need two more members for this committee. The Recreation committee is again active. Finally, it is important for interested parties to know that these are strictly voluntary positions. Despite some misleading information that was spread about our township, all of our committees are voluntary. Only the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Trustees receive any compensation. These positions are very time-demanding, and typically these members are paid a small amount for meeting attendance. Our unpaid committees provide an excellent opportunity to give back to the Scio Community.

### RECYCLING CONTINUES

Scio Township is still doing recycling on the third Saturday of each month. The hours are usually 8:00 AM till Noon. Recycling continues at the Township Hall on the third Saturday of the month. Upcoming dates are October 21<sup>st</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup> & January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 8 am to noon, sponsored by Scio Township and Recycle Ann Arbor. At these two times you may bring old computers, TVs, appliances, tires, even literally the kitchen sink. There are fees for many of these items. A list of items and fees is available at Township Hall. We are always looking for volunteers for recycling. It is light exercise, and a pleasant experience in that you are helping people that are



almost always in a good mood, and you are doing the environment a favor. For information on what can be recycled visit the Scio Township web site or call Recycle Ann Arbor at 734.662.6288.

### NEW: TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AVAILABLE

I am very pleased to announce that Scio Township has become a member of the Washtenaw Urban County. This group facilitates the procurement and usage of federal funds to help low and moderate income citizens with home purchase and repairs. It also can help with infrastructure improvements, like sidewalks and transportation. In particular, we have just started a dial a ride service for \$1.00 per ride. To qualify for these \$1.00 rides the County provides and requires forms for the client to complete. More detailed information is available in this newsletter. I believe this is a step in the right direction.



Supervisor Nielsen and People's Express driver Sten Sahlberg discuss the bus that is used to serve income qualified Scio residents.

### DEXTER SENIOR CENTER IS AVAILABLE TO ALL SCIO RESIDENTS

The Dexter Senior Center, located at 7720 Ann Arbor Street in the Village of Dexter serves all Scio Township senior citizens. If it is a hot lunch that you need, activities aimed at those in the golden years, or just some social interaction contact the Center at 734.426.7737 or drop by the building 9 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Remember, it's not just toxic to you!

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment? These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous products need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.

So what can you do to help? Simple. Here are some steps you can take to carefully dispose of household wastes and help keep our water clean.

Identify it. Be aware of household products that can harm children, pets, and the environment. The words "danger," "caution," "warning," or "toxic" indicate that you need to be careful in how you use and dispose of the product.

Less is better. Reduce waste and save money by purchasing only the materials you need. When possible, choose less toxic alternatives. For example, try cleaning your windows with vinegar and water.

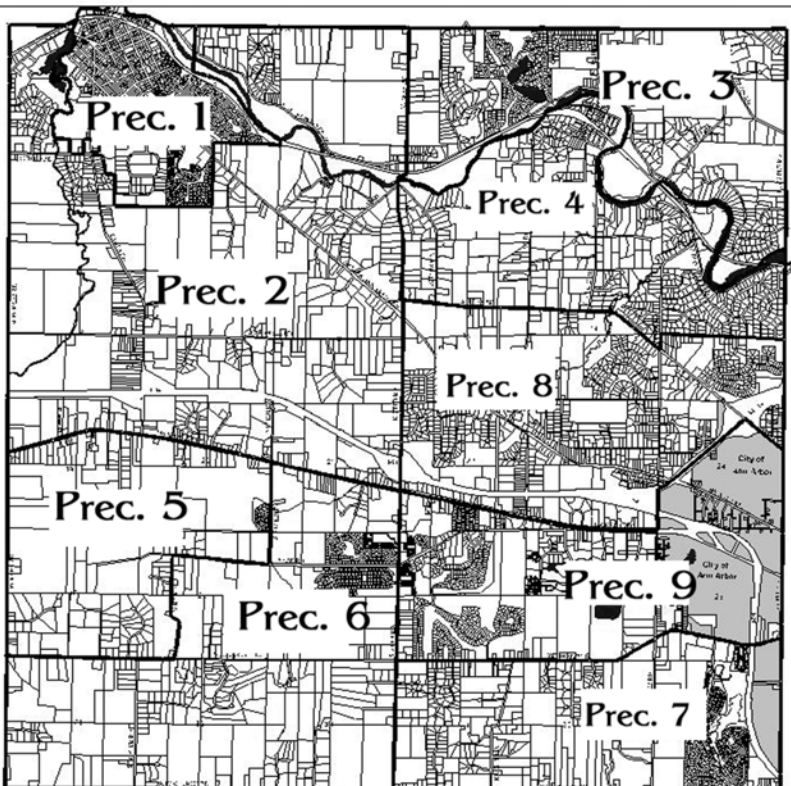
Store properly. Keep unused products in their original containers with labels intact. Select cool, dry storage areas that are away from children, pets, and wildlife.

Disposal is key. Never dump cleaners, chemicals, motor oil, and other toxic materials down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground. Contact your local community for household hazardous waste disposal locations, guidelines, and dates.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org) or contact Scio Township at 734-665-2123 / 827 N. Zeeb Road. Remember, our water is our future—and it's ours to protect.

The information provided above is printed with permission from the Southeast Regional Council of Governments. A digital version of this article and graphics are available at [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org). Select the "Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect" logo and then refer to the section entitled "Materials." Keeping our waters clean is every one's business, and together we can all make it happen.

### Scio Township Precinct Map



#### Precinct 1

DEXTER SENIOR CENTER  
7720 ANN ARBOR ST.

#### Precinct 2

SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL  
827 N. ZEEB RD

#### Precinct 3

SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL  
827 N. ZEEB RD

#### Precinct 4

SCIO COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1293 N. ZEEB RD

#### Precinct 5

SCIO FARMS MHP CLUBHOUSE  
6655 JACKSON RD

#### Precinct 6

SCIO FIRE HALL  
1055 N. ZEEB RD

#### Precinct 7

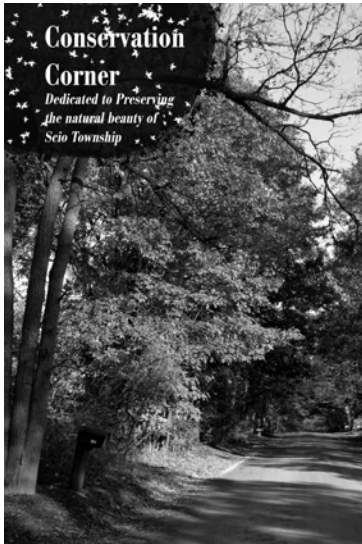
WISD  
1819 S. WAGNER RD

#### Precinct 8 NEW LOCATION

SCIO FIRE HALL  
1055 N. ZEEB RD.

#### Precinct 9

POLO FIELDS CLUBHOUSE  
5200 POLO FIELDS DR.



The Scio Township Land Preservation Commission (LPC) is nearing completion of several land preservation projects utilizing funds from Proposal J, and has had a huge success with a matching fund program for farmland protection.

The Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program is about to sign a purchase agreement for a 42 acre property in Scio.

The City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt program is also a partner in this project along with Scio Township. A few details need to be finalized, but soon this land will be acquired and made available to the public for quiet recreational uses.

The Greenbelt program is purchasing a 44 acre property in Scio with matching Proposal J funds from the Township. This property will be used for active recreation (soccer fields mostly) and will have trails through a mature woods. There may also be a Frisbee golf course and a picnic shelter on site.

The Township is also partnering with the Greenbelt program to purchase a conservation easement on an 11 acre natural area. This property is also a mature woodland with spectacular Spring wildflower blooms. Public access for quiet recreational uses will be negotiated as part of this purchase.

Details on all of these projects will be provided in future issues of Scio News as each deal is finalized.

In May, the LPC applied three agricultural properties to the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP) for funding. This program provides grants for the purchase of conservation easements on qualified farmland. Only \$2 million was available in the State of Michigan this year. Scio was awarded grants on two of its properties totalling \$772,000, by far the highest amount awarded to any recipient. These grant awards will be used to match Township and other funds to protect up to 430 acres of farmland and associated woods, wetlands and streams. The Township has two years to complete the projects and spend these federal dollars.

## Scio Township Info

The LPC has prepared a mailing to owners of the most significant natural areas and open spaces in the Township. The Commission wants to ensure all quality properties in Scio are considered for protection. To protect the highest quality properties first, each property is first visited by the Commissioners, then scored and ranked in priority for protection.

Scio Township Land Preservation Commission members—Bruce Manny, Deaver Armstrong, Allison Arscott, Irwin Martin, Leslie Desmond, Kathleen Knol and Charles Ream—are grateful for the opportunity to recommend properties for protection with Proposal J funds to the Scio Board of Trustees. The fruits of their labors will soon be realized and will be significant to Scio residents for generations to come.

**SCIO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS  
TRANSPORTATION  
CALL THE PEOPLE'S EXPRESS  
# 734-216-6073**

**TO QUALIFY FOR THE \$1.00 CDBG COUNTY  
GRANT RIDES, YOU MUST MEET INCOME  
GUIDELINES AND COMPLETE A  
REGISTRATION APPLICATION.**

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OF THE  
PEOPLE'S EXPRESS 734-216-6073 AND  
THE QUALIFICATION PACKAGE WILL BE  
SENT TO YOU.**

The Township now qualifies to receive on-demand door-to-door transportation service for income qualified people. People's Express is operated by Northfield Human Services. The cost is subsidized by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program available for Scio Township through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). This is the first year ever that Scio Township has participated in this federal grant program aimed at community improvements and services for low and moderate income families that originally began in 1974. Income qualifying residents can receive scheduled rides for only \$1.00 each way,

An individual must complete and return an application form from People's Express. They will be notified by the Northfield Human Service office staff of the status. If approved, rides can be scheduled as needed with a minimum of 36 hours advance notice. The People's Express appointment phone lines are open from 10:00-2:00 PM daily at 734-216-6073.

**Township Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

734-665-2123

734-665-0825 (Fax Number)

**Scio Township Officials**

- ✍ Charles Nielsen, Supervisor
- ✍ Kathleen Knol, Clerk
- ✍ Donna Palmer, Treasurer
- ✍ Jim Dries, Trustee
- ✍ Jean Leadwith King, Trustee
- ✍ David Nacht, Trustee
- ✍ Charles Ream, Trustee
- ✍ Darrell A. Fecho, Township Manager

**E-mail sent to township board  
@twp.scio.mi.us will be forwarded to all  
members of the township board at once.**

**All Emergency Calls 911**

**Fire Department Office 734-665-6001**

**Sheriff's Department Zeeb Road Office  
734-994-8105**

**Utilities Emergency 734-651-4770  
Utilities Office: 734-665-2606**

**Washtenaw County Road Commission  
734-761-1500**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**DISTRICT 1:**

Mark Ouimet  
(734) 663-0927  
ouimetm@ewashtenaw.org

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**DISTRICT 2:**

Martha Kern  
734-483-3621; kernm@ewashtenaw.org

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**DISTRICT 3:**

Stephen Solowczuk  
734-429-0849;  
solowczs@ewashtenaw.org

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**DISTRICT 9:**

Leah Gunn  
734-663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**DISTRICT 10:**

Conan Smith  
734-662-0268; smithco@ewashtenaw.org



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**Peter Pasienza 734.662.4488**  
*president 248.855.1849*  
586.504.0677/cell

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A1americanmaids.com

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

Lyndon B. Johnson



**Advertising**

The Scio Township Newsletter is mailed to approximately 8,000 homes and businesses 4 times a year. Just send your business card and \$60 to be included in this section. We mail the newsletter on or about the first of February, May, August and November. We need your materials two weeks in advance.

(Continued from page 1)

district):

The largest expenditures from the General Fund are police, fire and EMS services, which have exploded from a total of \$472,000 in 1999 to \$1,334,000 for 2005-06 and represents 44% of the General Fund expenditures of \$ 2,998,000 for the last year. The Township Board was forced to adopt a general fund operating budget for the current fiscal year in which planned expenditures exceeds projected revenue. The deficit for this year will be covered by transfers from the previous balances in General Fund. No general fund sponsored capital improvements are included in this year's budget. The Township cannot continue to take money out of the bank, or ignore equipment replacements and capital improvements for an extended period of time.

Our revenue shortfall is due to many factors, including a continuing decline in state revenue-sharing funds, the effect that Proposal "A" has on capping taxable value on properties, and the mandated Head-lee millage rollback. These revenue limitations struck Scio in the middle of a setting where 52% of our current residents have moved here since 1999, bringing our population to an estimated 19,000.

Some of the hard financial facts from the audit:

Revenue sharing from the State of Michigan was cut an additional \$130,000 during the fiscal year, representing a reduction over 20% in real dollars from the 2002 fiscal year.

Total general fund expenditures, which include personnel expenses, decreased by nearly 12% (\$ 397,000) between FY 2005 and FY 2006,

The County Board withdrew the subsidy that was provided for the Sheriff's Road Patrol in late 2005. It impacts us in mid-year, starting January 2006, approximately a doubling in Township expenditures for police services. That creates the need for additional revenue for years to come to maintain just the current service level.

A deficit was averted in fiscal year 2006 because of paper increases in the valuation of medium and long term investments, the foregoing some planned capital improvements, and by closely watching individual expenditures and severely cutting back all unnecessary expenses.

The entire audit is available on our website [www.twp.scio.mi.us](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us)

## DECEMBER TAX BILL REMINDER

Bills will be prepared and mailed the last week of November. I am asking each property owner, residential and business, to make sure we have the correct mailing instructions, especially if there has been a change in ownership after October 1st or a mortgage change.

All owners are responsible for their records, not the Township. State tax laws are very specific in this regard.

Donna E Palmer, Scio Township Treasurer



## FROM THE CLERK'S DESK.....

A township clerk is required under state statute to have a deputy clerk.



Additionally, that deputy is required to be fully functional in all aspects of the clerk's duties. The decision to hire Gay Kenschuh as the part-time deputy clerk gave the township the benefit of her years of knowledge and experience as the former township clerk. Gay's duties include assisting with the day-to-day maintenance of the qualified voter file and assisting with elections.

The volume of work in any township or city clerk's office is proportional to the number of registered voters in that municipality. Scio Twp. has over 12,700 registered voters and 9 precincts. Comparisons to other municipalities in Washtenaw Co. are educational. Pittsfield Twp. has approximately 20,000 registered voters. The Pittsfield Clerk's office includes a full time deputy, a fulltime elections coordinator and 3 fulltime administrative assistants. Salem Twp. has 4400 registered voters and employs a part-time deputy and a part-time elections coordinator. Other municipalities in Washtenaw Co., such as the City of Saline and Ann Arbor Twp. have significantly fewer registered voters than does Scio Twp. Yet, these municipalities employ more staff in the Clerk's office than Scio Twp. does.

In summary, by comparison to other municipalities, the Clerk's office in Scio is currently functioning with minimal numbers of staff in proportion to the number of registered voters in the township.

The Scio Township Clerk's office has worked diligently to provide the best possible election services to the residents of this township. For example, Precinct 7 had over 3000 registered voters when I took office. As a result of this, many residents waited in line for over 2 hrs. to vote in the 2004 Presidential election. In 2005, Precinct 7 was split. This process took several months, involved coordination with the State Bureau of Elections and the Washtenaw Co. Clerk's office. Another change that was made in the Clerk's office in 2005 was that we agreed to run all of the school elections, which occur once a year. The agreement to run the school elections was voluntary and not all townships in this county agreed to do so.

The rationale for agreeing to run all of the school elections was that the election process for all voters in the township became streamlined because school and other elections were to take place in the same location. Creating a new precinct and taking on an additional annual election have required more time and personnel from the Clerk's office, but were changes that were instituted to improve the election services in this township. We are continuing to try to improve election services for the residents in Scio Twp. in additional ways. For example, absentee ballot applications are now available online at the Scio Twp website : [www.twp.scio.mi.us](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us)

The frequency of elections has increased since 2004. Current election statutes allow elections to be held on four dates in a given year. For example, we will have had four elections in 2006. This is a dramatic increase in the number of elections in a given year and requires additional staff support.

Scio Township had approximately 6500 registered voters in 1992; today we have more than 12,700. The volume of work in the Clerk's office has increased proportionally to the increased number of registered voters and the increased frequency of elections. Staffing patterns that may have been appropriate more than 10 years ago are no longer workable in a growing township such as this one.

Kathleen P. Knol  
Scio Township Clerk

### Regular Township Meeting Schedule

#### Planning Commission

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Board of Trustees

2nd Tuesday and Wednesday two weeks following at 7:00 p.m.

# Scio Township Retains "The Paddle"

The day was July 9, 2006. The location was the Huron River at Gallup Park, and the event was the Mayor's Challenge Canoe Race, which is part of Huron River Day. This event was held for several consecutive years, but was discontinued for a few years before being resurrected for 2006. The last race was won by Scio, our first victory in the race's history. The prize is "The Paddle" which has metal plaques designating the winner for each year of the race. Some of you may



**Supervisor Charlie Nielsen, and Trustee Charles Ream**

have attended a Board, Planning Commission, or ZBA meeting and noticed the historic paddle sitting on top of the Scio Township sign at the front of the room.

The paddlers were Supervisor Charlie Nielsen, and Trustee Charles Ream. They lined up against five or six other teams from other communities that touch the Huron River. The Scio team got a pretty good start, but found themselves in third place after about the first 25 to 50 yards. They fought to second place about half way to the midway point. The half-way mark is under the Huron Parkway Bridge where they executed a hairpin turn around one of the bridge pilings. The Scio Team of Charles and Charles executed the turn masterfully and breezed into first place. At that point adrenaline took over they gave it all they had. The team that was running second was Team Wixom. They were very

good and tried valiantly to catch Scio, but determination prevailed and Scio crossed the finish line about a canoe length ahead. The City of Ann Arbor finished third, but they were coming on like they had an outboard motor. So the tired Scio Team rejoiced and have retained "The Paddle" for at least another year. We await its physical return with a new 2006 plaque attached for its honored placement in the Board Room.

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.TWP.SCIO.MI.US](http://WWW.TWP.SCIO.MI.US)

  
**Scio Township**

**SCIO  
TOWNSHIP  
HALL**

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