



## S C I O T O W N S H I P H A L L

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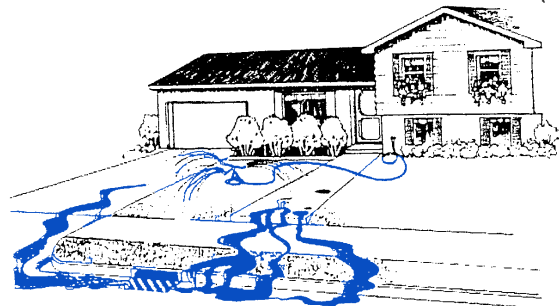
## Scio Township Voluntary Water Restriction Policy

**This only applies to Scio Township customers who are receiving water from Scio Township. This does not apply if you are on well water.**

To encourage conservation of water, Scio Township Board of Trustees has adopted a Voluntary Lawn Watering Policy for Scio Township residents in the water service area, that encourage an odd/even watering schedule. Lawn watering would be discouraged between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.

Before turning on the sprinkler system, residents and business owners are encouraged to determine if it's "their day" to water the lawn, based on the odd/even schedule. This means if your home or business address ends in an odd number (1,3,5 etc.) you should water your lawn on odd/numbered calendar days each month.

Likewise, if your address ends in even number (0,2,4 etc.) you should water your lawn on even-numbered days of the month.



**Don't let this be your home.**

**Check The Clock.** [SEE TIPS FOR THE EFFICIENT WATERING OF YOUR LAWN ON PAGE 3]

Lawn watering is encouraged only before 12:00 noon and after 5:00 p.m. regardless of whether it is "your day" to water.

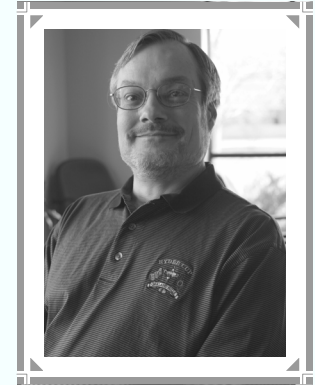
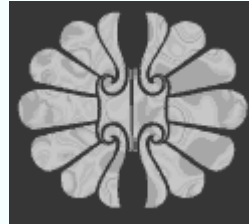
The Voluntary Lawn Watering Policy is a suggested guideline to be in place for the entire year, and every year until further notice. It is suggested automatic sprinkling systems should be set to comply with both the odd/even schedule and the hours of the day when lawn watering is suggested. The Voluntary Watering Restriction Policy applies only to lawn watering and not to incidental use such as washing cars. **Questions about the Policy can be directed to the Scio Township Utilities Department at (734) 665-2606.**

## From the Supervisor's Desk

Last December Scio Township entered into a four year contract with Washtenaw County with a significant increase in costs for Sheriff's services. The cost for the last two years (2008/2009) is still unknown as of this writing, although, I could "guess" closer now than since I last wrote about the subject, but the firm number is still undecided. There are also unknown overtime costs involved, so from a budgetary point of view, we must be conservative, estimate on the high side rather than budget low and face an unpleasant surprise later.

Increased sheriff costs have led the Township to review alternatives for the provision of police services. Last year we explored the possibility of contracting with the City of Ann Arbor. The City was mildly interested and offered a comprehensive package that doubled the number of officers involved in providing service, a number required to maintain their standards, with accompanying increases in cost. Ann Arbor's police force is highly respected, but from Scio Township's budgetary view, we really needed a "lighter" version of the proposal which Ann Arbor was not prepared to accept, so we had to respectfully decline. I have recently met with Northfield Township to explore the possibility of using their police force in collaboration with three other townships. These discussions are in the very early stages. However, it appears that there is very little interest in a large regional police force among our neighboring townships because they view Scio as much more urbanized, and therefore allocating costs fairly would be difficult.

Two other options include creating our own township police force (very expensive in start-up costs), or simply doing none of the above and relying on minimal State Police coverage. Although the State Police is a quality police unit, I believe our residents would find the low level of coverage and the lack of response unsatisfactory. Many items still need to be researched before anything is finalized, but one thing is certain -- maintaining adequate police protection will be significantly more expensive than we have been familiar with



here in Scio, no matter which direction we take.

The situation with fire protection is a bit clearer. Scio Township has fire and emergency services that we all can be proud of. The Fire Department not only responds to fires and traffic accidents, but they are our first line defense on medical emergencies as well. They get to the scene quickly and perform effectively. To see their organization and hard work in action is to admire it. Fire departments don't generate revenue. They generally do not charge their "customers" for their services. They incur significant expense in the form of personnel, equipment, training, fuel, supplies, maintenance, etc. While our Fire Department has made every effort to continue an excellent level of service within budgetary limits, it is obvious that they need increased financial backing to maintain and improve service. Improved fire coverage could mean lower fire insurance premiums for everyone. But be assured that if the Fire Department ceased to exist, your fire insurance bill would raise much more than any taxes that you pay.

The Township has been forced to take funds out of dwindling reserves to meet operating expenses. This can't keep up, as those funds are being depleted. Scio Township faces a major financial turning point for public safety. Expenses have increased, due mainly to the county sheriff services contract and inflationary factors. Couple this with mandated tax limitations, roll-backs on the tax levy, huge reductions in state shared tax revenue payments, and we have a looming financial crisis.

The Township Board formed a panel of residents

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

and business owners to study the fire and police issues, consider the financial environment, and produce recommendations to the Board of Trustees. I encouraged all of them to think “outside of the box” and to study any idea. After several long meetings, the consensus was that increased revenue for public safety was needed as soon as possible. There seems to be no reasonable alternative to increasing revenue, assuming, of course, that the residents wish to continue receiving police and fire services. (Scio currently levies less than a mill for all Township operations including police and fire, less than \$200 per year in tax on the average home). The panel thought it was imperative that we seek a voted increase on the August primary election ballot, and not wait until November. Several of our neighboring municipalities are also asking for millage for public safety. Others have recently passed them, and others will soon be asking; so Scio is definitely not alone in asking its voters to approve support of public safety. The committee also recommended that the term of an assessment be limited to four years while the ultimate solution for police service is researched in more depth.

It was recommended that the revenue be raised through establishing a “Special Assessment District” excluding the Village of Dexter. This is a fairness issue for Dexter property owners who currently pay for both a Sheriff’s contract, and their own fire service through their existing millage levy of 13+ mills. If Scio were to assess additional mills on properties in the Village for public safety, it would be a double tax, and thus unfair. So the proposed millage assessment would exclude the property owners in Dexter. Even though the requested term is for four years, the actual rate levied would have to be reviewed and decided each year of the four years. The actual millage rate will be set annually to generate only the funds needed.

Meanwhile, the “Scio Public Safety Study Committee” will continue to study alternatives, focus on the future, and research how best to keep and enhance public safety services.

Charlie Nielsen  
Supervisor, Scio Township

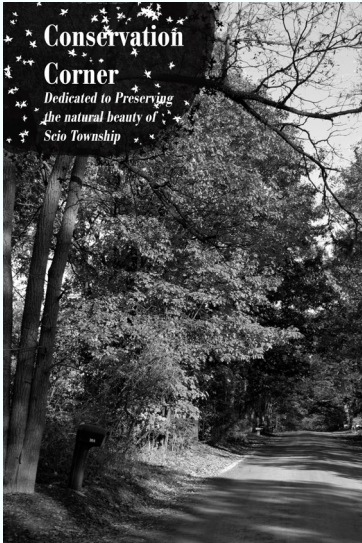
## SAVE MONEY AND WATER

Scio Township Utilities Department has put Together Tips for watering your lawn.

1. **DON'T OVER WATER YOUR LAWN.** Over watering can cause root damage such as a shallower root system and mold and mildew on your lawn.
2. **Water wisely.** Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water per week. Over watering lawns results in shallow rooted plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid over watering by using a rain gauge and watering only when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.
3. **Calibrate your irrigation system.**
4. **Your lawn only needs 1" of water applied once per week.** Since most ground in the Scio area is a clay soil and or clay loam soil apply approximately one 1-inch or two ½ -inch applications a week.
5. **Improve your aim.** Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants — not your driveway, sidewalk, or street.
6. **How to determine the amount of water to apply to your lawn?** Tuna can method: Place a row of equal-sized, straight-sided cans in a line at 1- or 2-foot intervals from your sprinkler to the farthest point of watering. Time how long it takes to fill the cans 1/2 to 1 inch—that's how long you should water your lawn.
7. **Best time for irrigation is early morning 4:00am to 8:00 am or late afternoon** which helps avoid evaporation losses. Early morning is best for avoiding molds and mildew.
8. **Lawn care:** Raise your lawn mower cutting height. Mower should be set at 2 – 3" high and leave your lawn clippings. Lawn clippings help hold moisture and acts as a fertilizer. Longer grass blades shade each other, reduces evaporation and inhibits weed growth.
9. **DO NOT WATER YOUR LAWN IN THE RAIN.** For about \$35.00 - \$50.00 you can purchase an irrigation rain sensor to be installed on your system. For proper installation consult with a professional irrigation distributor.

PLEASE HELP TO CONSERVE WATER





The Scio Township Land Preservation Commission (LPC) has been diligently pursuing its mission to conserve open lands in our township with funds from Proposal J.

The LPC solicited applications last November for agricultural properties, and several outstanding ones were nominated for consideration. The Township submitted an application for matching funds to

the State of Michigan, but unfortunately a grant was not awarded. The LPC remains very interested in conserving those nominated properties and will be applying to the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program for matching funds this Spring.

The LPC is also charged with protecting open space and natural areas in the township. Several such properties are currently under review, and additional funding to conserve them may be available from the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program and the Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program. Some Scio open space properties will be purchased with partial funding from these public agencies and will be accessible to the public for quiet recreational uses.

The LPC's first project was participation in the purchase of development rights on 30+ acres of the Gordon Hall property just west of the Village of Dexter. With a \$200,000 commitment from Scio Township, the Dexter Area Historical Society submitted the winning bid to purchase the property from the University of Michigan for \$1.5 million. Scio's contribution is contingent on an agreement with the Historical Society to restrict development of the property to agriculture, open space and historical uses through a deed restriction that will run with the land in perpetuity.

The LPC has adopted a model conservation easement to be used for all projects in which land development rights are purchased. A presentation was recently made to the LPC by a professional counselor on bonding the revenue from Proposal J in order to access funds now when properties and matching funds are available. LPC members have also been working with the Scio parks committee to assist them in the development of a township parks plan.

The Scio LPC has now visited nine sites in the township for possible development rights or outright purchase.

Land protection negotiations can take up to two years before title to land or development rights are purchased. The Scio LPC anticipates that several land conservation projects will come to fruition in 2006 and thanks Scio voters for supporting Proposal J.

**Chair, Bruce Manny**, has lived in Scio Township since 1981 on a small farm that was protected in 1997 as agricultural land by the State purchase of development rights program. Bruce serves as a director of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau and was recognized as Conservationist of the Year in 1998 by the Washtenaw Land Trust. As past co-chairperson of the People for a Beautiful Scio ballot committee, he thanks you for supporting Proposal J!

**Vice-Chair, Deaver Armstrong**, got her master's degree from the School of Natural Resources at University of Michigan in 1998. Dea has worked in the City of Ann Arbor's Natural Areas Preservation Division as an ornithologist since that time and has lived in Scio Township for over 15 years.

**Secretary, Irwin Martin, PhD**, is a zoologist by training and a Scio resident since 1990. Irwin worked as an executive in the pharmaceutical and non-profit industries for over 20 years, and now happily manages his small horse farm in Scio.

**Allison Arscott** has been a resident of Scio Township for over 30 years and has practiced Landscape Architecture in the area for almost 40 years. She has served on the Scio Planning Commission for 4 years, 2 years as Vice-Chair. Allison looks forward to helping the Township in its land preservation initiatives.

**Leslie Desmond**, served on the Scio Township Planning Commission from 2002-2003, and co-chaired, with Bruce Manny, the campaign to pass Proposal J. She is now also working on the Delhi Bridge Conservancy to preserve the historic bridge. She has had two careers before becoming a preservationist—that of elementary school teacher and a commercial real estate attorney. Leslie also serves on other not-for-profit boards in her career as professional volunteer—Washtenaw County ACLU, SOS Community Services, Samaritan Counseling Services, Webster United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Homes and Services (Chicago).

**Kathy Knol**, Scio Township Clerk, has been a Scio Township resident for ten years and has served on the Huron River Watershed Council. Kathy previously practiced law and has a longstanding concern for natural area preservation.

**Charles Ream**, has been elected five times to the Scio Township board, beginning in 1988. He has retired from teaching kindergarten for 33 years, and is now a Michigan Licensed Professional Counselor. He now serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals and has been a Scio Township planning commissioner.

## Regular Scio Township Meetings:

### 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 Phone Directory:

General Offices	665-2123
Sewer & Water Utilities	665-2606
Fire Dept.	665-6001

### Washtenaw County

Sheriff	
-- Scio substation	994-8105
Road Commission	761-1500
Drain Commissioner	994-2525
Building Inspection Services	222-3900
Environmental Health	222-3800

## Scio Township Board of Trustees:

### Supervisor

Charles Nielsen

### Clerk

Kathleen Knol

### Treasurer

Donna Palmer

### Trustees

Jim Dries  
Jean Leadwith King  
David Nacht  
Charles Ream

### Township Manager

Darrell A. Fecho

All township officials can be reached by e-mail at

[twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:twp.scio.mi.us)

They will respond as soon as possible to individual e-mail.

### James Beck

Loan Officer

[jbeck@interactivefinancial.com](mailto:jbeck@interactivefinancial.com)



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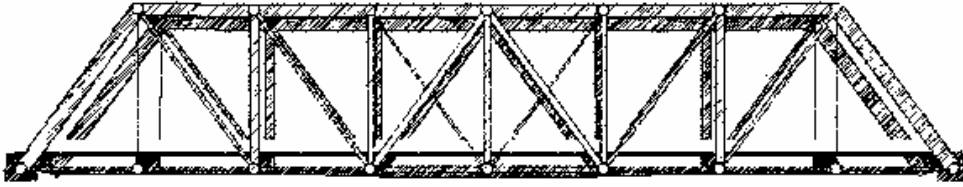
## Advertising

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.

## Status of the Effort to Save The East Delhi Bridge

Arguably the most well known landmark in Scio Township is the East Delhi Bridge. This beautiful Pratt design iron truss



Pam Byrnes, and County Commissioner Mark Ouimet, in addition to Conservancy members, the Michigan Department of Transportation sent the Road Commission a letter that said rehabilitation

bridge, which traverses the Huron River at the scenic Delhi Rapids, was built in 1888. It is one of only six of its type left in Michigan, and one of only two capable of carrying vehicular traffic (the other is the Foster Road Bridge, which crosses the Huron River a few miles downstream). Metal truss bridges were once common throughout the United States, and were key to developing the transportation system needed to support the development of our industrial society.

In 2000, the Washtenaw County Road Commission received Federal funding to rehabilitate or replace the bridge. Federal funds would cover 95% of rehabilitation or replacement costs, and the Road Commission would pay the rest. Early last year, the Road Commission announced it was beginning a process to evaluate replacing the bridge with a two-lane highway bridge capable of supporting a 77-ton truck. The Road Commission argued that, because the current bridge could not be rehabilitated to meet current Michigan design standards, rehabilitation could not be done with the Federal funds available to them. Local citizens subsequently joined together to form the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy, in order to preserve this historic and scenic landmark.

Because of the Conservancy's efforts, in May of last year the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution appointing an Historic District Study Committee. This committee was charged with evaluating the East Delhi Bridge, and determining whether it meets the criteria to be included in a historic district. The committee is currently preparing a draft report of its evaluation. In June, the Road Commission sent a letter to the Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment, outlining the position of the Road Commission that it was not obligated to seek approval from a local historic district if it decided the bridge must be replaced to ensure safety and convenience for public travel. At about the same time, the Road Commission closed the bridge, arguing that it was no longer safe. The bridge remains closed almost a year later.

In August, as a result of a meeting attended by the Road Commission, Scio Township trustees, State Representative

could be funded with the existing funds. There were two stipulations: 1) the bridge must meet certain loading criteria enabling the bridge to support a 27 ton truck (e.g. a ladder fire truck) and 2) traffic lights must be plain September 2005, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office determined that the bridge appeared to meet criteria for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. This determination means that protections of the Federal review process come into play when considering alternatives for the bridge. These protections include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires the county to explore alternatives to avoid and reduce harm to the bridge, and Section 4(f) of the Transportation Act of 1966, which requires the county to show rehabilitation is not feasible or prudent before it can replace the bridge.

In the meantime, the Conservancy had also been working to raise funds to conduct an engineering feasibility study for rehabilitation. Late last year, the Road Commission approached the Conservancy and Scio Township with a proposal to co-fund this study. The Conservancy and Scio Township agreed to this proposal. In March, we received a preliminary engineering study from Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers of Cleveland, Ohio. The study concluded that the bridge could be rehabilitated to meet standards for a 27-ton truck at an estimated cost of \$553,000. This estimate includes a 15% contingency for cost overruns, and is much less than cost estimates for bridge replacement.

The Conservancy is now working to convince the Road Commission that rehabilitation of the bridge is in the public interest, preserving an historic landmark, protecting the scenic beauty of the Delhi Rapids and Delhi Metropark, and also saving money for both Washtenaw County and Michigan taxpayers at the same time. In addition, the Scio Township If you would like to get on the listserve of the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy, send an e-mail to [delhi-bridge@comcast.net](mailto:delhi-bridge@comcast.net). If you would like to learn more about the East Delhi Bridge and iron truss bridges in general, the following website is very informative <http://www.historicbridges.org/truss/edelhi/index.htm>.



## Upcoming Improvements to the Baker Road/ I-94 Intersection

Late last year Scio received federal dollars to improve the Baker Road overpass in a similar fashion to the work done on the Zeeb Road overpass several years ago. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is managing the project, which should begin this September. The original project was to have begun in 2000, but funds were placed on hold. Here are the details of the project:

- ◆ The overpass itself will be replaced and widened to 5 lanes. There will be a new eastbound ramp, and reconstruction of the westbound entrance/exit ramps
- ◆ During the construction of the westbound entrance and exit ramps, traffic will be detoured for approximately 30 days as follows: WB entrance ramp detour will be Baker Road to Jackson Road to Fletcher Road to I-94. WB exit ramp detour will be Zeeb Road to Jackson Road to Baker Road.
- ◆ During the reconstruction of the existing eastbound entrance ramp terminal area traffic will be detoured for approximately 10 days as follows: Baker Road to Jackson Road to Zeeb Road to I-94.
- ◆ Two lanes of traffic on I-94 will be maintained at all times except for short intervals during bridge beam placement.
- ◆ One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on Baker Road.
- ◆ The Park and Ride on Baker Road will be closed for the duration of the project unless otherwise posted.
- ◆ The cost of the project is approximately 7.5 million dollars.
- ◆ The project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006. The majority of the work will be started in the spring of 2007.
- ◆ The project is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2007.



Current conditions looking south on Baker Road

### Reminder: False Alarms Will Result In Charges



The Township strictly enforces the false security alarm ordinance. The number of runs for false alarms has decreased dramatically since active enforcement started last summer. The Township Fire Department and the Sheriff's office appreciate your cooperation. Unfortunately, many property owners have incurred costs related to non-compliance.

In order to avoid future charges, remember that you are allowed only **one** false alarm call in a calendar year. If you have unusual security circumstances impacting your system, please discuss them with your alarm company. There are many ways in which problems with over-sensitive systems can be reduced. If you have a potentially serious security issue on your property, please feel free to discuss it directly with the County Sheriff at 994-8105.

# Utilities Department

# Upcoming Programs

1. New radio read devices (MXU) are being installed on the entire Township system. The MXU will enable us to be more efficient in reading meters as well as cutting down the read time. A flyer is sent before work is done in your area.

2. The Township has a two-phase cleaning program with Zeeb Road as the dividing line. Phase I is west of Zeeb and was completed last year. Phase two, east of Zeeb, will be done this year. This is part of routine maintenance for users of the sanitary sewer system. Manholes that are buried will have to be dug up and exposed to gain access. Cleaning is done with high-pressure water jets. Rarely, some process water will come up into basements and toilets. If this happens in your home please, contact the cleaning supervisor on-site. Measures will be taken to clean up in the event this happens.



3. Fire hydrant painting will be started this summer. The township has nearly 1000 hydrants in the system.

4. Theft of water from fire hydrants is a problem. Only township personnel or contractors with a permit are allowed to use hydrants. If you see someone hooked to a hydrant anywhere in the township, please call the utility department immediately. This theft costs money and the hydrant could be damaged or made inoperable when needed for fire fighting.

5. If you are on the Township water and sewer system, the utility department has on-call personnel to respond to emergencies after hours and on weekends and holidays. Please call 734-651-4770. Do not call 911 or the fire department as these lines are for life threatening and fire emergencies only.

Remember!! All Township utility department employees carry identification cards and will show them upon request.



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