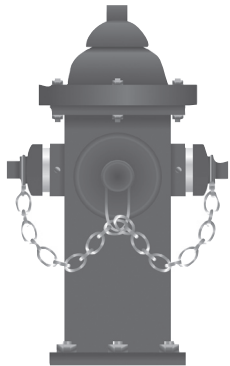


New Readers, Winterize!

Make sure your home is protected by installing a battery back-up system for your sump pump.



New water meter readers

The Utilities Department is making excellent progress in installing the new style of water meter reading devices at residents' homes. This new style of reader allows the Utility Department to better serve you by enabling our staff to read your meter remotely. All we have to do is drive by and the meter sends us the usage information.

Upgrade is almost complete

Over the last few months, we have been working through Scio's neighborhoods installing the new readers. If you are not home when we come by, we'll leave a note letting you know we were there and asking you to contact us at your earliest convenience. We'll schedule a specific appointment time and will try not to inconvenience you (some appointments require as little as 15 minutes.) We have installed over 2,000 of the new readers and have only about 20 left to install. Implementation of the new readers will greatly enhance our ability to serve you.

Winterize your sprinkler system

If you have an in-ground irrigation system, don't forget to have it winterized. The water lines are not very deep and will expand with the freeze and thaw cycles over the winter. This can cause the lines to crack or break which will result in leaks when you turn the system on in the spring. Have your system winterized before it has a chance to freeze.

Back-up your sump pump

Power failures seem to occur at the most inconvenient times! Like during a thunderstorm or right after a major ice storm. These are the times that most sump pumps are working overtime to keep your basement dry. Make sure your home is protected by installing a battery back-up system for your sump pump. When the power goes, out the battery takes over and makes sure your system keeps pumping the ground water out from around your home and helps keep your basement dry. Cost may vary but you can call any licensed plumber for more information. If you have battery back-up, remember to check your battery each month to make sure it is charged and ready to go.

Winterizing fire hydrants

Scio Township Utilities Staff is currently winterizing all fire hydrants. Each fire hydrant will be inspected and tagged by staff to ensure that they are in proper working condition so that water won't freeze inside the hydrant during the winter.

You can help

If you observe anyone using a fire hydrant, please call us at (734) 665-2606 and let us know the location of the hydrant. It is imperative that the hydrant be winterized to ensure that the hydrant is ready to be used by the Fire Department in the event of an emergency.



Scio Township

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

PRE SORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 308
ANN ARBOR, MI

Postmaster: leave with current resident

House Calls for your ailing computer

Get help from Andrew Dixon, your Microsoft Certified Professional and source of affordable onsite PC troubleshooting and repair. Call (734) 668-1788 for a free consultation or visit:

www.personalcomputeradvisor.com

Personal
Computer Advisor

Hands-on help with your home or office PC
ASD Computing LLC, 5076 Hensley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

"Promoting Commerce and Community on the Boulevards"



Scio Township

COMMUNITY REPORT

Fall 2007

In this issue:

From The Supervisor's Desk 1

Intergovernmental Cooperation 1

Planning Commission Report 3

Tax Reminder 3

Election Update 4

Preferred Hauler Update 5

Fire And Rescue 5

Parks Update 6

Contacts 7

Utilities Update 8

MDEQ Public Notice

A public hearing on the proposed Honey Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant will be held by the MDEQ on

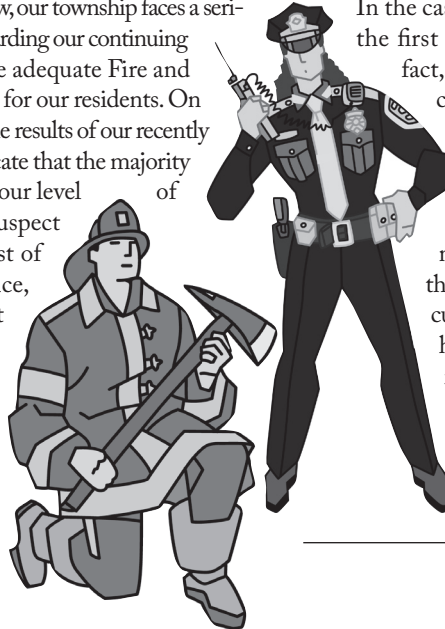
**Wednesday
November 7, 2007
7:00 pm
Scio Twp Hall**

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY CHARLES NIELSEN

Challenging Times

Funding Public Safety will be challenging

As most of you know, our township faces a serious challenge regarding our continuing ability to provide adequate Fire and Police protection for our residents. On the other hand, the results of our recently completed resident survey indicate that the majority of the respondents think that our level of Public Safety is adequate. I suspect that this may be because most of us have not needed the service, and of course we all hope that we don't. But the reality is that when we need these services, we need them desperately. As the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and as a resident, I want to ensure that these services are available and delivered quickly if and when we need them.



Budget constraints have hurt

In the case of our Fire Department, they are usually the first on the scene of a medical emergency. In fact, the majority of fire dispatches are medical calls. Over the years, Scio has grown at a rapid pace. Historically, our Township has been the fastest growing township in Washtenaw County. As our population has increased, the Fire Department has not been able to keep pace. Consequently, the Department has fallen behind the growth curve. Much, if not most, of the material that has appeared recently in the newspapers regarding our Fire Department's issues is a result of budget constraints. Like most organizations, when there is not enough money available, conflicts and personal agendas tend to rise to the surface.

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

COOPERATION BY DARRELL A. FECHO, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Intergovernmental Cooperation Key for Cost Saving

Sharing of municipal services has been a major topic of discussion in Lansing recently. Scio Township already participates in a number of cost sharing programs with other communities. Even though these endeavors don't make the headlines, the services developed over the years have resulted in substantial financial savings to the Township and represent cooperation or a consolidation of activity.

Consolidated insurance reduces cost

Several joint ventures impact Township daily operations. Scio belongs to a cooperative group with other Townships for property liability insurance and related services through the Michigan Township Participating Plan, a program funded and operated by member Townships for Townships since 1985. Scio is a member of a separately rated municipal hospitalization group for employee coverage

that is jointly administered by the Michigan Township Association (MTA) and the Michigan Municipal League (MML). Employee pensions are handled by the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) that is funded and managed through statewide guidelines by a state chartered non-profit organization representing over 600 state municipal entities.

County provides technical expertise

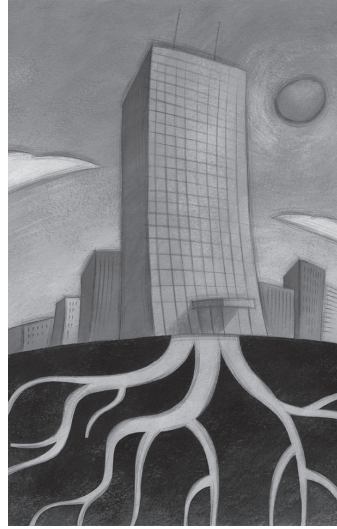
The Township participates with Washtenaw County for many services. County divisions have full jurisdiction over roads, drains, environmental health and soil erosion. The Washtenaw County Department of Inspections functions as the building code, mechanical code, plan review and inspection agency for Scio and six other communities

Cooperation continued on page 2

As public servants, we want an accurate read on our residents' opinions.

Residential growth requires tax support

Most of the growth I mentioned was residential. History has shown that these properties require more services than the taxes from those properties will support. Although we have seen some growth in the commercial and industrial segments, most of that development has been in our Downtown Development Authority area which retains half of the tax revenues it generates. The DDA has provided much for the Township, such as safe drinking water and our beautiful Jackson Boulevard corridor, but, by law, it cannot provide fire or police service. In the very near future our Public Safety Study Committee will be reporting their findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Shortly after that the Committee will launch a public education effort, so watch this newsletter for more detail and information as we move forward.



Watch out for the deer

As we enter the fall season, the opportunity for auto/deer collisions increases, and Scio Township has the largest number of deer collisions in Southeast Michigan. The good news in this is that we must have good land management practices to support the large deer population - if only we could find a way to get the deer to pay taxes! The following tips should help you avoid a mishap with one of Scio's deer:



Although deer are around all year, they are most active in the spring and fall and usually at dawn or dusk.

Deer usually travel in groups and in single file. If you see one deer crossing the road, slow down. There are most likely others following.

Honking your horn and flashing lights usually have no effect on them.

Don't swerve for deer; just brake firmly, hold onto the steering wheel and come to a complete and controlled stop.

If you do hit a deer, pull off the road out of traffic and turn on your emergency flashers. Be cautious of traffic if you leave your vehicle. Report the crash to the nearest police agency and, of course, your insurance company.

Make your voice heard

One of my tasks is to schedule public hearings when necessary and/or desired. Since I have been in this office, I have noticed that when the public is asked to come forward, it is usually those with a negative opinion on the subject who turn out. It seems that the people who are in favor of something just assume they are the majority, and therefore do not need to be heard. Conversely, the people that are opposed make sure they are heard. As public servants, we want an accurate read on our residents' opinions. So please come out and tell us what you think when the opportunity arises, whether you are pro or con. This way your public officials can make better decisions based on your opinions.

Get involved

The Township Board meets twice a month at 7:00 pm in Township Hall. The first meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month and the second meeting is held on the Wednesday 2 weeks after the first meeting. You can check our schedule, the agenda, or review the approved minutes at www.twp.scio.mi.us/administration/trustees

voluntarily acting together. The County supplies IT support for our website, GIS assistance and data processing. Also through the County, we work with neighboring communities in the Urban County program for the acquisition and management of U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Community Development Block Grant entitlement funds.

Local mutual aid

In the public safety area, we have mutual aid agreements with surrounding departments for fire and EMS services that have been in effect since 1987. These agreements allow for the dispatch of equipment and personnel in the case of major incidents while supplying backup services when requested. For utility services, we combine with Webster Township in a joint authority (LASA) that supplies water and sewer services to the Loch Alpine area. We purchase water and sewage treatment from the City of Ann Arbor.

Cooperation controls cost

Each of these cooperative efforts helps improve the efficiency of operations, minimizes expenditures and contributes to the reasons that Scio Township has been able to levy one of the lowest tax millage rates in the state.

Planning fair was well attended

Attendees told us they want to maintain the rural character of the township by preserving active farmland, open space and natural features.

Over 120 township residents attended the very successful Scio Planning Fair held in August. This was another opportunity for citizens to express ideas about the kind of community Scio might become in the future. This information is invaluable in directing the Planning Commission's ongoing task of updating Scio's Master Land Use Plan, tentatively scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2008.

Planning fair highlights

All of the information collected during the Planning Fair will be presented in complete form in the Master Plan document. In summary, attendees told us they want to maintain the rural character of the township by preserving active farmland, open space and natural features. Residents want to be part of an "active community" by developing a system of walking and bicycling paths connecting neighborhoods to public places, parks and preserves.

Smart development

Scio residents also want to plan for the future growth of the community in a "smart" way by focusing commercial and a mix of land uses along the Jackson Road corridor, and by directing residential development in the areas of the township where current roads and utilities can support it. In summary, much of the input from the Planning Fair reinforced many of the findings from the recent survey of residents. All of the citizen input will strengthen the foundation of the Master Land Use Plan.

Other Planning Commission news

During this period of slow development and, thus, more open agendas, the Planning Commission has the opportunity to focus on reviewing planning documents that have become outdated. We are looking at our Zoning Ordinance and assessing the need for amending it in ways that better serve the community.

Green regulations

A planning commission sub-committee is developing a list of recommendations for zoning ordinance amendments. Some of the candidates include items such as new design guidelines for development along the Jackson Road corridor, parkland requirements, ecological characterization requirements based on areas identified in our Greenways Plan, expanded riparian corridor protection, and new standards and regulations for promoting "green" building technology, including energy and water efficiencies. Watch this column for more details.

Get involved

Once again, thank you for all your input. Look for updates in future newsletters and as always, you're welcome to attend the Planning Commission meetings held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm in Township Hall. You can check our agenda or review the approved minutes at www.twp.scio.mi.us/administration/planning

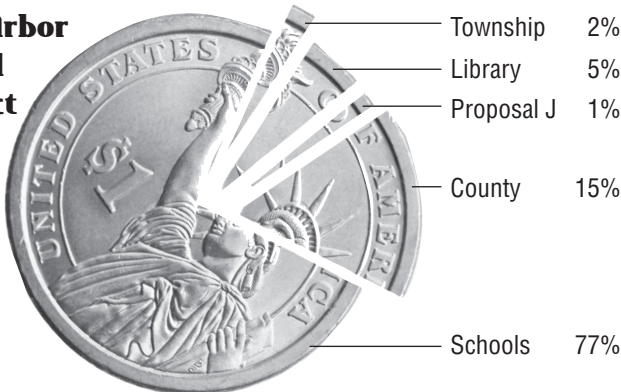
A TOWNSHIP TAX REMINDER – BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

Keep us informed

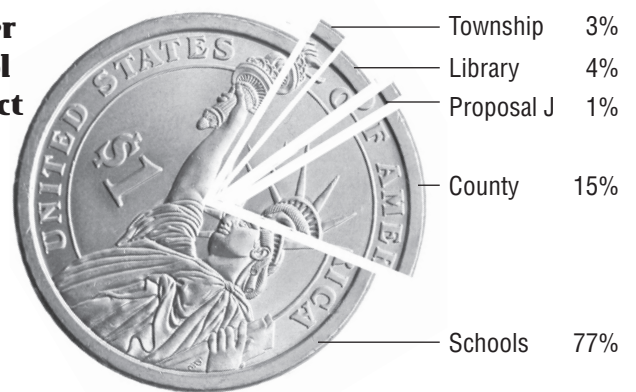
As most of you know, we are in the middle of posting, depositing and distributing the taxes we collect (see charts below). For many of us, our mortgage company pays our taxes collected each month as part of our mortgage payments. However, some of us have no mortgage or have elected to pay taxes directly. Those of us

in this group should have already received and paid our summer tax bills. If you do not escrow your taxes and you have not received a tax bill yet, please contact the Township Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Please remember to keep the Township updated with your current address information so that we can keep in contact with you.

Ann Arbor School District 2006 Taxes



Dexter School District 2006 Taxes



Come out and vote!

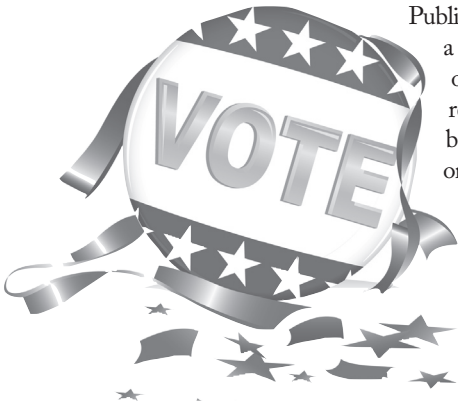
A presidential primary in Michigan to be held on January 15, 2008

With all of the discussion in the news about the presidential primaries, I thought it would be beneficial to clarify when we will be holding elections in Scio Township in 2008. The elections will be held as follows:

- January 15 (presidential primary)
- May 6 (school)
- August 5 (primary)
- November 4 (general)

New date for Presidential Primary

Public Act 52, which was enacted recently, establishes a presidential primary in Michigan to be held on January 15, 2008. A provision of this Act requires that voters declare a party preference before receiving a ballot. Specific information on this has not yet been provided to local election officials. There has been discussion of possible changes to the presidential primary, but as of this writing, it remains scheduled.



Voter identification at the Polls

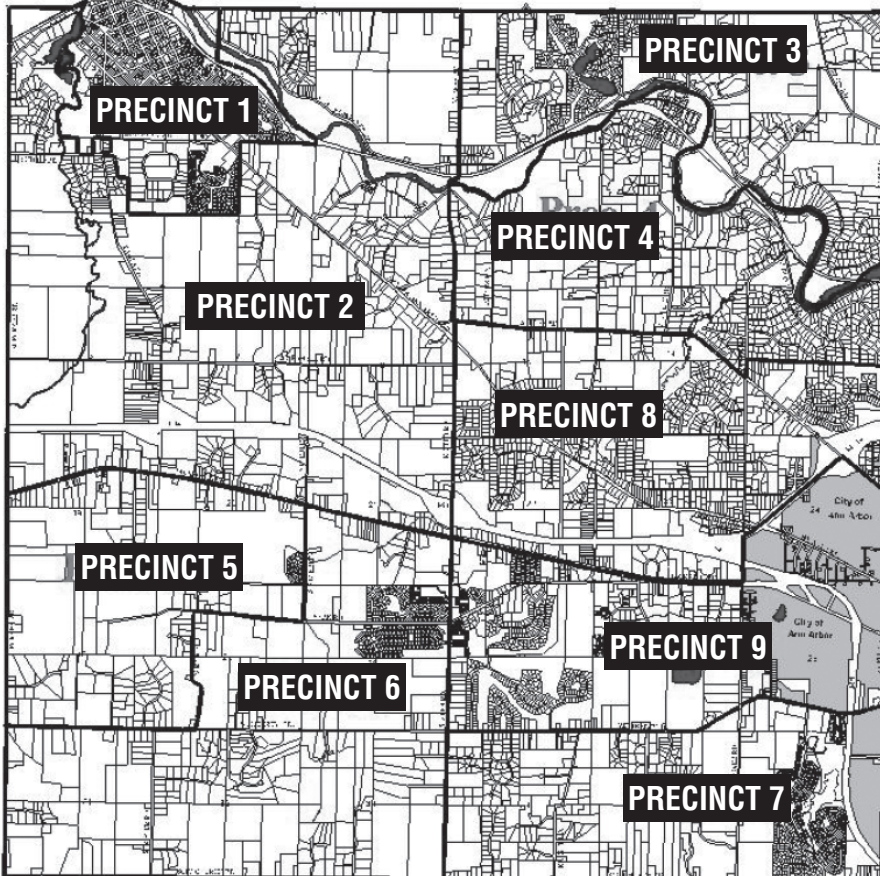
The Michigan Supreme Court has recently ruled that a provision of Michigan election law that requires voters to either present picture identification or sign an affidavit if they do not have picture identification is constitutional and enforceable. Voters will now be asked to show picture identification or sign an affidavit at the time of completion of the Application to Vote at the poll sites. Voters who apply for an absent voter ballot are not required to comply with the picture identification requirement.

Confirm your precinct's location

With the exception of Precinct 8, Scio residents will continue to vote in the poll locations they have previously used:

- Precinct 1:** Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor St.
- Precinct 2:** Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 3:** Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 4:** Scio Community Church
293 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 5:** Scio Farms Clubhouse,
6655 Jackson Road
- Precinct 6:** Scio Fire Hall, 1055 N. Zeeb
- Precinct 7:** WISD, 1819 S. Wagner Rd.
- Precinct 8:** voters will be notified by mail of their new election site.
- Precinct 9:** Polo Fields Clubhouse
5200 Polo Fields Dr.

Please mark the election dates on your calendar and remember that the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Come out and vote!



Local officials, members of the Washtenaw County Road Commission and local residents were on hand to open the Parker Road Bridge on Friday, September, 28.

Let's Talk Trash

Public Hearing on New Solid Waste Ordinance

Wednesday
October 24, 2007
7:00 pm
Scio Twp Hall

A few newsletters ago we wrote to you about our idea to identify a preferred solid waste hauler and recycling contractor for Scio Township. We've made quite a lot of progress in the last few months and it is time to share the details of this proposal with you.

Thanks for your help

But first, our sincere thanks to all of you who called us or sent letters and emails to offer support and sound advice. Your input helped us to shape the program and added some key elements to it.

The details

We will hold a public hearing on the new ordinance at the Township Hall on Wednesday, October 24th at 7 p.m.

Our target for implementation of the program is January, 2008.

We have completed a draft solid waste ordinance that repeals the old ordinance that we passed back in April, 1981.

The new ordinance allows the Township to solicit and contract for "Preferred Hauler" of solid waste and recyclables.

We have written a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) that, under the new ordinance, will be sent out to interested haulers asking for bids for the performance of weekly household solid waste pickup and, minimally, bi-weekly pickup of recyclables and yard waste.

"Preferred Hauler" status will be awarded based on the prices and services described in the RFP response.

More than one hauler may achieve "Preferred Hauler" status.

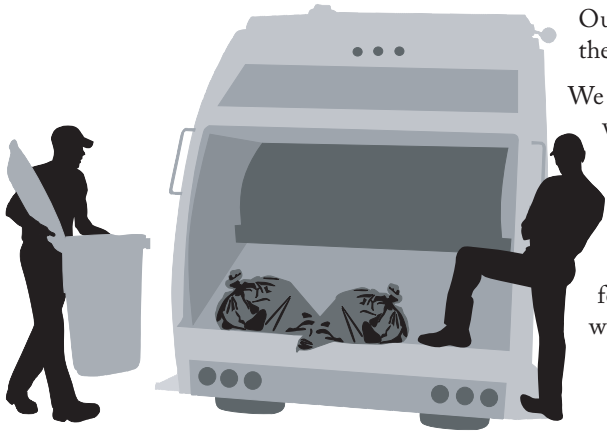
The Township will publish the list of "Preferred Haulers", along with their prices, services and contact information, in this newsletter, on our website, and in our tax mailings.

You will get to choose your preferred hauler, or keep your current hauler if you like. Your participation will be strictly voluntary.

Each prospective hauler must provide detailed costs and ensure proper waste disposal and recycling.

Expected benefits include reduced costs to households, increased recycling, fewer heavy truck trips, reduced road wear and improved energy conservation.

Please mark the date, Wednesday, October 24th at 7:00, for the public hearing on this new ordinance. We hope to see you then and hear your comments.



SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE

Annual Halloween Party

Sunday
October 28, 2007
2:00 to 4:00 pm
Scio Fire house

It's almost Halloween and you know what that means...

Annual Halloween party

The Fire Department will be hosting their annual Halloween Party on Sunday October 28th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Fire House, 1055 N. Zeeb Road. There will be lots of games and treats and some very nice door prizes. So dress up and come and join us – and don't forget to bring the kids!

Smoke Detectors

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Even if you have type of detectors that are "hard wired", they still have a battery in case of a power failure. So please do everything you can to keep your house safe.

Fire prevention during the winter months

During December, January, and February, heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires. Make sure the equipment in your home has been checked and maintained: filters have been changed, belts checked and a proper clearance from combustible material is maintained. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, you should have already cleaned your chimney. Depending on how much you burn and the condition of your flue you may have to clean it again during the season. For cleaner flues and hotter fires, only burn seasoned or dry wood.



Scio needs additional public parks

“There is a dramatic need for active recreational space for the citizens of Scio Township. Currently, every ball diamond and flat spot we call a soccer field is used to its maximum capacity.”

For many months the Parks Committee has been trying to determine the needs of Scio citizens for parks and recreation. At a recent meeting we got some good answers.

Need for recreational space

Mr. James Vollmers came to our meeting straight from coaching duties. He spoke of the current needs of the Dexter Little League and Dexter Soccer Club. Hundreds of Scio parents have kids playing Little League baseball, softball and organized soccer. He said, “There is a dramatic need for active recreational space for the citizens of Scio Township. Currently, every ball diamond and flat spot we call a soccer field is used to its maximum capacity.”

Respect and good habits

The dedication to organized recreation by these parents is not about “playing games”. Kids learn lifelong habits and values by being a member of a team. The terms “responsibility” and “respect” are key phrases used by these organizations. Coaches tell kids that it’s their responsibility to clean out their

own equipment bag, to practice on their own and to remind

Mom and Dad about next week’s practice. They

teach respect for coaches, team-

mates and their opponents. They

preach proper nutrition and exercise

and the kids seem to remember it.

Good habits are

learned. Kids who play sports seem to have less time to get in trouble and spend less time in front of the TV. (The Soccer Club also has adult teams.)

Parent support for playing fields

Many parents feel that involvement in sports benefits their children. Athletic activity may build character in our children, improve health, pull the community together, and provide economic benefit to nearby businesses. Youth sports teams in Scio have always been able to get as many business sponsors as they need, both “team sponsors” and “field sponsors”. You heard right: “field sponsors”. These leagues now pay tens of thousands of dollars in “field rents” annually; they would be happy to do maintenance and even construct basic infrastructure if they had a “home” field. They need an area that can incorporate baseball diamonds, and soccer fields of different sizes. (Scio Township’s Proposition J of 2004 provides money to buy land for new parks and recreational opportunities but no money for maintenance of infrastructure.) The newly released survey of Scio residents reveals that “A large majority of residents think that Scio needs additional public parks”.

Get involved

Here is an opportunity for citizens and government to work together, provide recreation, and save taxpayer money! We need more members on the Parks Committee to make Scio Parks happen. Please join our committee! Call Alec Jerome at 426-4990 or Chuck Ream at 761-5869. We meet the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 P.M., at Township Hall.



Why Parks?

Christen Smith, Manager of Parks & Recreation Services of the Ann Arbor Parks Department, spoke to a recent meeting of the Scio Township Board about the value of parks.

Parks improve the quality of life

She said that parks provide lasting beauty, bring people together, improve the value of nearby property, and help people of all ages get the physical recreation they need. Parks are always a key factor on rating scales for the “quality of life” in a community. Both individual and team activities for all ages can be available in parks. Partnerships or sponsorships are often available where a business will help pay for a field or underwrite a team. Grants and intergovernmental partnerships are also available and should be investigated.

Different uses, different sizes

Ms. Smith described the different types of parks. The smallest parks can be a roadside picnic area or play structure. Neighborhood parks, embedded in areas of local population density, might be 3 to 5 acres. Community parks might run 10 to 20 acres and an athletic or sports complex may need a much larger area. “Linear Parks” contain trails which can be built to connect to other parks and trails.

Plan ahead

Ms. Smith advised Scio to consider “phasing”: to plan ahead now for both our short-term and long-term needs. She urged Scio to acquire the land for parks while there is still open land available.



Get involved in your community

Scio Township Information:

Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 665-2123; info@twp.scio.mi.us
visit us at: www.twp.scio.mi.us

Township Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Township Board of Trustees:

Charles Nielsen, Supervisor
Kathleen Knol, Clerk
Donna Palmer, Treasurer
Jim Dries, Trustee
Jean Ledwith King, Trustee
David Nacht, Trustee
Charles Ream, Trustee

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. E-mail sent to townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

Scio Township Senior Staff

Darrell A. Fecho, Township Manager. (734) 665-2123
Carl Ferch, Fire Chief. (734) 665-6001
Scott Martin – Utilities Director (734) 665-2606

Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department
Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff's Department,
Zeeb Road sub-station (734) 994-8105
Utilities emergency. (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration (734) 665-2606

County Information:

Washtenaw County Road Commission
(734) 761-1500; wrcr@wccroads.org

Washtenaw County Commissioners:

District 1 – Mark Ouimet
(734) 663-0927; ouimetm@ewashtenaw.org
District 2 – Ken Schwartz
(734) 686-4445; schwartzk@ewashtenaw.org
District 3 – Jessica Ping Mills
(734) 260-7844; pingmillsj@ewashtenaw.org
District 9 – Leah Gunn
(734) 663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org
District 10 – Conan Smith
(734) 662-0268; smithco@ewashtenaw.org

State Information:

State Representative

District 52 - Pam Byrnes
(517) 373-0828;
pambyrnes@house.mi.gov

State Senator:

District 18 – Liz Brater
(517) 373-2406;
SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov

Governor:

Jennifer M. Granholm
(517) 373-3400;
e-mail via www.michigan.gov/gov

Federal Information:

U.S. Representatives:

District 7 – Tim Walberg
(202) 225-6276;
e-mail via www.walberg.house.gov
District 15 – John Dingell
(202) 225-4071;
e-mail via www.house.gov/dingell

U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow
(202) 224-4822;
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Carl Levin
(202) 224-6221;
e-mail via www.levin.senate.gov

President of the United States:

George W. Bush
(202) 456-1111; president@whitehouse.gov

The Scio Township Community Report

Is published quarterly by the Scio Township Board of Trustees for the residents of Scio Township.

Editors,
David Read,
Graphic Design
Julie Tanguay
Photographer
David Read