

Scio Township

COMMUNITY REPORT

Spring 2009

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY SPAULDING CLARK, SUPERVISOR

Financial Challenges Ahead

As we look forward over the next four years, many issues, most significant of which being financial, will confront the Township. These days no one can predict where the country will be in the immediate future, nor can the Township predict with any certainty its future revenues. With the passage of the recent fire millage, we have begun the long term planning necessary to implement improved services. We are also looking to use funds previously allocated to fire services for police services. The County Board has essentially frozen the cost of a deputy for the coming year, but given the County's own anticipated financial deficit, we face an uncertain financial future when it comes to contracting for depu-

ties. There may be a brief light on the horizon with some federal stimulus funding. Though we need to be cautious, as it seems everyone expects some sort of federal stimulus relief, an assumption that stretches credibility.

Collaboration in Washtenaw being discussed

As a consequence, Scio needs to continue to work with other communities in the area, and in particular with the Village of Dexter, to restore amicable relations and to look for collective efforts to best provide public services. Currently the two groups of community planning teams in

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE BY BILL UPTON

Jackson Road Construction

2009 will be another busy year on Jackson Road. As soon as Mother Nature cooperates, construction will resume on Phase III of the Boulevard Project. Most of the underground work was completed last year. That work included installing the new water mains, sanitary sewer main, and storm sewers.

Paving to begin soon

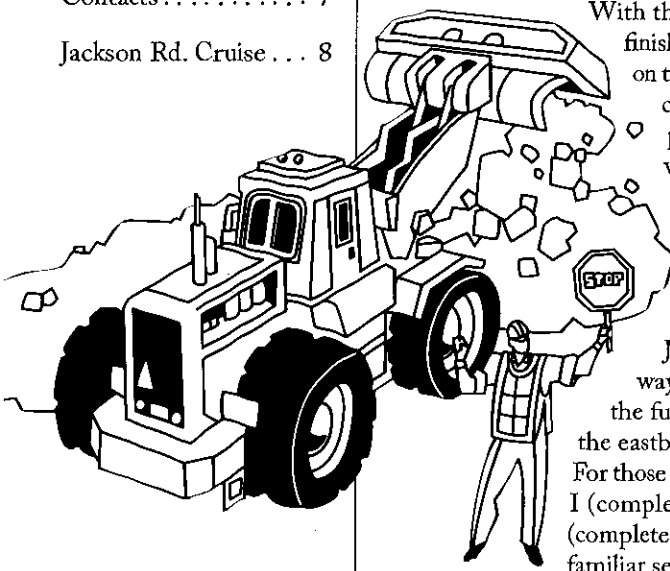
With the underground work nearly finished, we'll start to see progress on the road paving within the next couple of months. The first portion of the road to be done will be the future westbound lanes. While that work is taking place, traffic will be maintained on the existing road. The westbound lanes should be finished in early June. Once that happens, two-way traffic will be shifted onto the future westbound lanes while the eastbound lanes are constructed. For those of you who remember Phase I (completed in 1997) and Phase II (completed in 2002), this should be a familiar sequence.

Construction expected to be completed in November

The eastbound lanes should be completed by early fall, but that doesn't quite wrap up the construction. The last stage is to pave all the cross-overs and do some site restoration work. All of that will be completed by the end of the construction season in November. At that point, we'll finally get rid of the orange barrels! Landscaping of the verges and median will be done to some extent, in the late fall, but most of the landscaping will be done in the spring of 2010.

Thanks for your support

The DDA would like to thank the motoring public and the property owners along Jackson Road who have been very patient and cooperative throughout construction. In addition, we'd like to thank the Scio Township Utilities Department for their work in overseeing construction of the sewer and water mains and for coordinating those efforts with the road construction. Last, but not least, we'd like to thank the Washtenaw County Road Commission staff for their great work on this project. They are the ones who do all the "heavy lifting." Together, the DDA and the WCRC are looking forward to bringing you a safe and beautiful road by the end of 2009.



the Western Washtenaw areas have decided to investigate the possibilities for consolidation of fire services. This will take a long time and doesn't represent a quick fix, but the effort alone should bring benefits. At the same time, the communities that immediately surround Ann Arbor are also looking at ways to collaborate, including fire services, all recognizing that collaboration is the way to achieve governmental efficiencies.

Dexter and Scio discuss mutual issues

I am thus pleased to report that the Dexter Village Council and the Scio Board of Trustees held our first joint meeting in late January. That meeting will be followed with smaller group discussions to focus on various topics, including open annexation issues, prospective development issues, coordination of municipal park plans, Dexter's potential change from a village to a city, potential consolidation of fire services in Western Washtenaw, and mass transit issues.



DNR grant to be finalized

You may also have read that Scio received a Michigan DNR grant for the purchase of (planned) parkland along Baker Road near the Bella Gardens location. Until the grant details have been finalized by the DNR, we cannot proceed, and even then there is no assurance that we can successfully purchase the property. Thus, while designated prospectively as "parkland," there are no specific plans as to how the property will be used or how maintenance needs will be funded. In the longer term, we hope that if the property can be acquired, it will represent a future connection with the park planned in Dexter Village along Mill Creek.

Much to be done

Township representatives continue to meet with the Ann Arbor Utilities Department to improve water and sewer services, while at the same time looking to long range utility alternatives to assure we will have sufficient capacity for future growth. There is a lot of work to do.

EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM BY LISA KING, SARGENT, WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

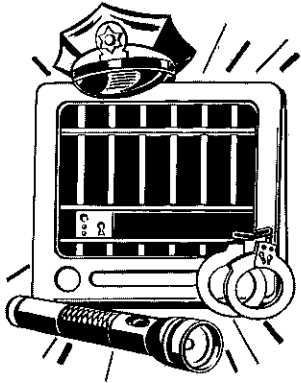
Help Prevent Criminal Activity

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office is committed to fully engaging the citizens that we serve and working with them to prevent criminal activity, capture those individuals that have committed crimes, and to find non-enforcement methods of improving the quality of life in our county. With that in mind, we have created the Email Alert System (EAS).

• EAS will allow citizens to self-subscribe/unsubscribe to email alerts that the Sheriff's Office will utilize when appropriate.

- Citizens have the ability to sign up based upon the community they live in.
- Citizen emails will not be shared with any other entity.
- You can access the EAS system online at: <http://ewashtenaw.org/sheriff>.

If you have any questions regarding the Email Alert System, please contact our Director of Community Engagement, Derrick Jackson at (734) 973-4503 or jacksond@ewashtenaw.org.



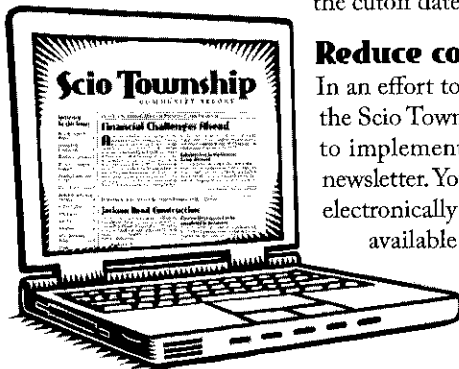
SCIO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER BY DAVID READ

Electronic Newsletter proposed

Would it surprise you that each quarter the Township spends almost \$5,000 to print, assemble, address and mail over 8,300 newsletters? The vast majority of these are delivered to Township residents. But because we mail to each property owner, quite a few copies are mailed out of state – and even out of the country! All of this processing and handling adds about three weeks to the delivery schedule. For instance, the cutoff date for articles for this issue was March 16th.

Reduce cost and save resources

In an effort to reduce costs and save time and resources, the Scio Township Board of Trustees (BOT) is planning to implement an optional paperless "delivery" of this newsletter. You won't actually get the newsletter delivered electronically but you will get an e-mail notice that it is available on the Township's website. You can then choose to read it online or print it for your records.



Newsletters are already online

Once the system is implemented, you'll be able to choose whether or not you want to take advantage of it. You'll need to supply us with your e-mail address and your home address and that's it. We need your e-mail address so we'll be able to notify you that the latest newsletter is available on our website. We need your home address so we can eliminate the paper copy that gets sent to your home each quarter. As you know, only one copy of the newsletter gets sent to each residence. As a result, only one member of each household will need to sign-up for this new service. However, all family members can sign-up for electronic delivery. To see what our past newsletters look like online, go to:

http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/index_html

Let's hear from you

Let us know what you think of this proposed system. Drop us a line at newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us

Planning Moves forward

At the time of printing of this newsletter, the Planning Commission was poised to set the public hearing on the proposed master plan. The hearing is required by law to be held prior to adoption of the plan. It is expected that it will be adopted by the time you receive this newsletter. You can find the plan in its entirety on the Township website.

Needs of the residents were considered

One of the biggest changes to the Master Plan is the detail that was developed by dividing the Township into 5 sub areas: the Jackson Sub Area defined by the Downtown Development boundary and then four sub areas defined by dividing the Township into four quadrants – the Huron Sub Area in the northeast, the Mill Sub Area in the northwest, the Sister Lakes Sub Area in the southeast and in the southwest, the Honey Sub Area. The future character of these areas is described in detail and is based on projected demographic information and, most importantly, on the needs of the local citizens and stakeholders. These needs were collected through a series of input gathering efforts that took place over a two-year period and included: a scientific township survey, an economic study, a township visioning workshop, public meetings and the written feedback received from citizens and stakeholders throughout the process.

Community input and support appreciated

The support, interest and participation by the citizens of Scio throughout the master planning process was extraordinary. Those of us who have prepared the Master Plan are extremely grateful for all the community input, and we can all be assured the master plan is a community-shaped vision and will be a solid basis for future decision-making. Of course, the ongoing task will always be with us – to monitor changing conditions and adapt with the times, which are shifting dramatically as we adopt the Master Plan. But for the moment we rest and express our thanks to everyone for a job well done.

of hours walking their property and making notes on the existing ecology and natural systems. Six properties were assessed. The collected information will be in the data system shortly and reports sent to the landowners. The information helps validate the quality of the township natural areas while helping landowners learn more about their land and possible land conservation tax incentives. Field assessments will continue this year. Letters asking landowners of natural areas to participate will be in the mail in the next month. This evaluation is free of charge and the season will run from May to September. Please consider joining in on this valuable collaboration. For more information about the Bioreserve Project go to www.hrwc.org/text/bioreserve.htm

Planning commission vacancies filled

As of February 1st, the Planning Commission is operating with its full slate of seven commissioners. Peter Collins is the latest appointee filling Chris Green's seat that was vacated when she won election to the Board of Trustees (BOT) last fall. However, Chris still sits on the Planning Commission as the Board of Trustees designee, but will rotate that chair with other trustees every six months or so. Peter Collins is a welcome addition bringing valuable expertise in the area of environmental science. He is vice-president of ASTI Environmental in Brighton, providing investigation, remediation, compliance and restoration services.

Planned expansion for Terumo

The Terumo Medical Group is proposing changes to their campus in Scio Township. Terumo is located at 6200 Jackson Road, just west of Lowe's. The proposed changes include the construction of a 13,800 square foot addition to their Building No. 2 (currently 50,366 square feet) and other general site improvements. The Terumo Medical Group Campus is accessed from Jackson Road, via Cardia Drive, and consists of three (3) buildings totaling 204,249 square feet. The proposed addition to Building No. 2 will be north of and adjacent to the existing structure, with new sidewalk connections from the existing parking lot. Along with the building addition, general upgrading of the landscaping and on-site lighting is proposed to help bring the site into conformance with Scio Township standards. The Scio Township Planning Commission and Township Board of Trustees have approved these changes. We expect construction to begin this spring.

New field season for bioreserve inventories

Scio Township continues to partner with the Huron River Watershed Council's Bioreserve Project. The project is designed to help protect water resources in southeast Michigan by identifying and studying high quality natural areas in the Huron River watershed. Last summer, property owners of these natural areas were invited to help in the study by permitting trained volunteers to spend a couple

COLOR, CLOSETS AND TRIM

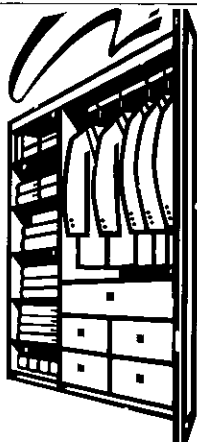
Keith Brown, Contractor

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References Available

llmea25@yahoo.com

(734) 330-7197

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Election Update

The May 5, 2009 election will be held for the purpose of electing school board members for the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Dexter Community Schools. Michigan law allows the local units of government that are responsible for conducting those elections to consolidate precincts. We see this as an opportunity to save cost and to improve the election process. So for the May 2009 election, Scio has elected to consolidate precincts. These changes are for the May 2009 election ONLY.

New polling places for some precincts

Precinct 1 – Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St.

Precinct 2, 3, 4 – Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd.

Precinct 5 – Scio Farms MHP Clubhouse, 6655 Jackson Road

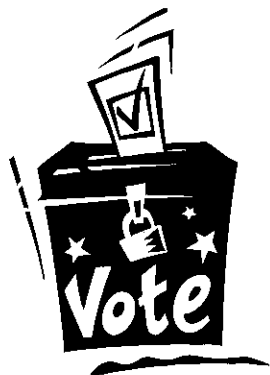
Precinct 6, 8 – Scio Fire Hall, 1055 N. Zeeb Rd.

Precinct 7, 9 – WISD (Washtenaw Intermediate School District), 1819 S. Wagner Road

PLEASE NOTE: Only Precincts 4, 8, and 9 have changed polling locations. Voters residing in these precincts will receive a postcard in the mail with pertinent information.

Keep your records up-to-date

As mentioned in the last newsletter, April 6, 2009 was the last day to register for the May 5th election. Registration cut-off dates for future elections are July 6th (for the August 4th election) and October 5th (for the November 3rd election). Please stop by the Township offices if you need to amend your registration record.



ORDINANCE UPDATE BY DARRELL FECHO, MANAGER

Revised Open Burning Ordinance

At the February 24th meeting of the Board of Trustees, a new Open Burning Ordinance was enacted. A copy can be found online at: <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/ordinances/>. A permit is still required for open burning and may be granted by the Fire Department by calling the Fire Station at (734) 665-6001 in advance of the burn. Open burning can only be conducted between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. No permits shall be issued for parcels of land with addresses located east of M-14, in the Village of Dexter, or for any parcels of land of less than one acre in size. "Prescribed Burning", as defined in the ordinance, is allowable under a permit. Structures and other materials may be burned for fire suppression training only in accordance with separate regulations as stated in Ordinance 2009-02.

Note: Cooking fires are excepted from permit requirements.

Materials that can be burned under the new ordinance include clean wood, natural materials, and dried vegetation including leaves and grass clippings. "Clean wood" means natural wood which has not been painted, varnished or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products. Fires shall not contain rubbish, plastic, leather, or petroleum based material or any flammable or combustible liquids.

Please review the complete ordinance, which can be found at: <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/ordinances/>, and remember to call for a burn permit in advance of any burning activity.



UTILITY DEPARTMENT UPDATE BY SCOTT MARTIN, DIRECTOR

New Program

The Scio Township Utility Department is starting a new program this year. We now have our Water system and Sanitary Sewer system on a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping program. We also have a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit to help record the location of the different components of our system.

This spring we will be locating the shut-off valve (the valve between the water main and the building) for every residence or commercial building in our system. These valves are installed in curb boxes that are buried 5' to 6' feet deep so we will be using a metal detector to find them. Once we locate the valve, we will use the GPS unit to record the location and then download the information into the GIS. This will enable us to quickly find the curb box should we ever need to access the shut-off valve.

Valve must be accessible

As we locate each shut-off valve, we will make sure we can get a turn-off key into the curb box. If the curb box is full of dirt or debris, we will blow the dirt out with a large air compressor. If your curb box is damaged, department staff will notify you and you will have to have it repaired at your expense. If the curb box is under the grass, we will dig it up and try to raise it to ground level. If the curb box is under cement or blacktop, it will be your responsibility to make it accessible and to raise it to ground level.

Please help us help you

The curb box/shut-off valve is one of the most important parts of the water system. If a pipe should break, the only way to stop the flooding is often the shut-off valve. If we can't access it, we won't be able to help you.

More Scio Land Protected

Scio Church Woods County purchases 91 acres

On December 29th, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) completed the purchase of several parcels totaling 91 acres. The Township's newest nature preserve, Scio Church Woods, is located on the north side of Scio Church Road, west of Wagner Road. It is entirely wooded with many large trees, first-order streams and riparian wetlands. The blooms of native spring wildflowers are among the most diverse and impressive in the Ann Arbor area. There are precious few large contiguous woods around, and protecting this one has long been a high priority. The Township contributed \$225,000 and the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt program contributed \$350,000 toward the purchase.



Trails to be developed – public welcome

County Parks will develop a small parking area and a trail network on

the property in the coming year, similar to those established on the County's DeVine, Fox and Stokes-Burns preserves in Scio. The Township Land Preservation Commission is thrilled to have the Scio Church Woods added to the growing list of publicly accessible protected lands in the Township.

Special Recognition

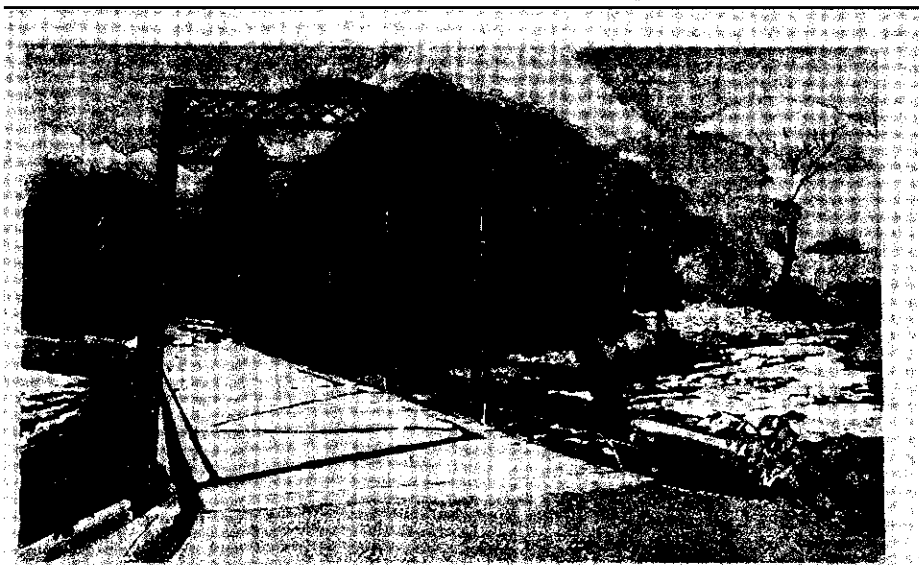
Special recognition is due to Township resident Lew Kidder. He and his associates first purchased a 20-acre parcel to prevent its development and then applied to the Township's preservation program. This was the nucleus around which the 91 acre Scio Church Woods was assembled. He motivated the neighboring owners to apply and steered the group through the process. Lew's perseverance was essential to completing this project.

Botsford Recreational Preserve A dream realized

Many people have visited "Grandpa Don" Botsford's property over the years, including hundreds of school-aged children. It's a hidden gem just outside the City of Ann Arbor, near the intersection of M-14 and Miller Rd. Don had operated the Ann Arbor Gymkhana, which produced several national champions on trampoline and offered other opportunities for physical conditioning and camaraderie. In 1975 Don purchased his 20 acres of woods with the dream of establishing a recreational facility that would provide patrons indoor and outdoor exercise experiences. He always wanted to ensure the land was protected, and that desire has finally been accomplished.

Public access available

The Township negotiated a "conservation easement" on the western 10.42 acres in which the foot trails on the property may be used by the public for quiet, non-vehicular outdoor activities, such as hiking and bird watching, while development is prohibited. The City of Ann Arbor—which contributed half of the \$312,000 to purchase the easement—will manage the property to maintain its outstanding botanical diversity. Access to the easement property was granted from Miller Rd. and the City will be installing a parking area and signage. The City also negotiated a right of first refusal to purchase the property at a future time. For now the public can enter the property at 3015 Miller Rd. (look for the Botsford Recreational Preserve sign) and walk the trails through mature woods and cross a branch of Honey Creek. Don welcomes you to stop in to the building to say hello. Visitors can also inquire about becoming members to use the exercise equipment and rent the treeshouses for overnight accommodations. Don's phone number is (734) 662-9200.



In addition to having an informative display of Historic Delhi Village photographs, Scio Township Hall boasts an original artwork of the Delhi Road Bridge by Jean Lau. Ms. Lau is a well-respected Ann Arbor artist who was commissioned by a former Delhi Village resident to create a set of prints featuring the bridge. She generously donated one print to the Delhi Bridge Conservancy's preservation campaign and it now hangs prominently in the entranceway to the Township Hall meeting room.

— Kathleen Timberlake

Scio Fliers Welcome You

If you go behind the Scio Township Hall and follow the lane at the northwest corner of the parking lot, you will find the flying field for the Scio Fliers. They are a group of enthusiastic aeronautic modelers who love to build and fly remote control (RC) model airplanes.

Visitors are welcome

When the weather is fair and the wind is light, you will find someone there on any weekend morning and most weekday evenings. Even though the entrance sign says "Scio Fliers Members Only", visitors are welcome. A visitor to the club will be most impressed by what he or she finds. There are airplanes of all descriptions: small, large, gas powered, electric powered, sail planes (gliders), fast planes, slow planes, high performance planes, trainers, kit built and scratch built, and even personally designed and built planes. During a season of flying you will see it all.

You can learn to fly

Members are eager to help newcomers with selecting a model to build and there are designated trainers to help you develop flying skills. A few visits to the field and you will probably want to join the club. Winter activity at the field is light but with the coming of spring, the membership is more active.

Come join us

The Township graciously provides the field and the Scio Fliers maintain the grass and the driveway into

the area. The club format is informal although there are rules in place to secure the safety of the area. Membership is open to anyone, men, women, boys, and girls. And it is not unusual to find the families of members watching from the sidelines. Excitement is always present. The sound of the engines, the thrill of a takeoff, a steep climb, a dive, a loop, a roll, or some more exotic aerobatic maneuver, and the thrill of seeing a plane approach the field for a landing is just the beginning of the excitement of RC Aeronautic Modeling. Visit the club once and in all probability you'll be bitten by the RC bug.

Learn a little about Basic Aviation

We will conduct a beginner's class in the Township Hall on June 6th from 9:00 to Noon. The class is free for those 10 years or older and is limited to 30 individuals. The class will cover the basics of what makes an airplane fly, the controlling surfaces, and how they affect the flight of an airplane. It will include the assembly of a rubber band propelled model, which the student will build and fly. Members of the Scio Flyers will provide supervision and one parent is requested to be present. The class will be followed later in the summer by hands-on flying of a radio-controlled airplane with the aid of an instructor. Registration is required and can be done via phone: (734)769-3538, or email: el.wier@comcast.net.



UTILITY DEPARTMENT UPDATE BY SCOTT MARTIN, DIRECTOR

Voluntary Water Restriction Policy

To encourage conservation of water, the Scio Township Board of Trustees has adopted a Voluntary Water Restriction Policy for Scio Township residents in the water service area. This policy affects only those residents serviced by the Township's Utilities Department, although this would be a good practice for the residents who are on well and septic. This policy encourages an odd/even watering schedule and discourages watering between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m. each day. In fact, studies have found that watering in the evening can promote the growth of mold and fungus so, if possible, water early in the day.

Determine if it is your day

Before turning on the sprinkler, residents and business owners are encouraged to check the calendar. If your address ends in an odd number (1, 3, 5, etc.), you should water your lawn only on odd numbered days of the month. Likewise, if your address ends in an even number (0, 2, 4, etc.), you should water your lawn only on even numbered

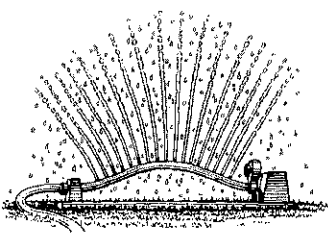
days of the month. Remember, try to water only in the morning - watering in the evening promotes the growth of mold and fungus.

Permanent guidelines

While the Voluntary Water Restriction Policy is only a suggested guideline, it is permanently in place and covers the entire year. It is suggested that automatic sprinkling systems should be set to comply with both the days of operation and times of watering. The Voluntary Water Restriction Policy applies only to lawn watering and not to incidental use such as washing cars.

Contact us

Questions about the Scio Township Voluntary Water Restriction Policy can be directed to the Scio Township Utilities Department at (734) 665-2606. Information is also available on the Scio Township website: www.twp.scio.mi.us.





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

Spaulding Clark, Supervisor . . . esclark@twp.scio.mi.us
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk nhedberg@twp.scio.mi.us
Donna Palmer, Treasurer depalmer@twp.scio.mi.us
Richard DeLong, Trustee
Christine Green, Trustee
Tom Hanson, Trustee
Jack Knowles, Trustee
Darrell A. Fecho, Township Manager (734) 665-2123

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. 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 Department Heads

Carl Ferch, Fire Chief (734) 665-6001
Scott Martin – Utilities Director (734) 665-2606
James Merte – Assessing (734) 665-2123

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 Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900
County Drain Commissioner: (734) 994-2525

The Scio Township Community Report

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

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David Read

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President of the United States:

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JACKSON ROAD CRUISE BY SCOTT HEDBERG, CHAIR, SCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

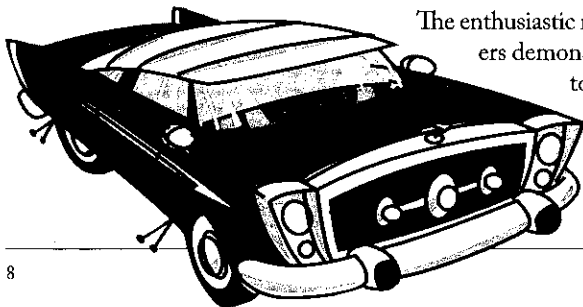
Sponsorships still available

**Saturday,
May 16
9:30 am
to 4:30 pm
Free and
open to the
public**

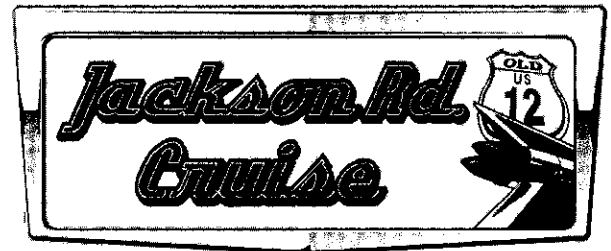
The Jackson Road Cruise Committee is seeking sponsorships for the much-anticipated car cruise to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 through the east-west corridor of Jackson Road Boulevard in Scio Township.

The Cruise Committee is getting the word out to all business owners in Scio Township, many of whom have already come forward. Committed sponsors include Ann Arbor Radio: W4 Country, 1290 AM, 1050 AM & 107.1 FM as media sponsors. Scio businesses such as Weber's Inn, Varsity Ford, Jim Bradley, Dunning Toyota, Ann Arbor Automotive, Sesi Lincoln Volvo, Harley Davidson, Lowe's, Meijer, Scio Town Center and the County Road Commission have agreed to be "Hub" sponsors. We are grateful for their support.

The enthusiastic response by local business owners demonstrates their desire to give back to the community. Our mission statement is: "To pave the way for future commerce along Jackson Boulevard in part-



1st Annual



nership with local businesses and showcase the historical Old US 12 in a community-wide, family-friendly event."

If you are interested in participating in the event or would like to become a sponsor, contact me at: scotth@jrcruise.org or visit our website at www.jrcruise.org for more information. Various levels of sponsorships are available and all include mention in promotional material and website links.

In gratitude, sponsors will be invited to participate in a kickoff dinner to be held May 15th at Weber's Inn on Jackson Road.