

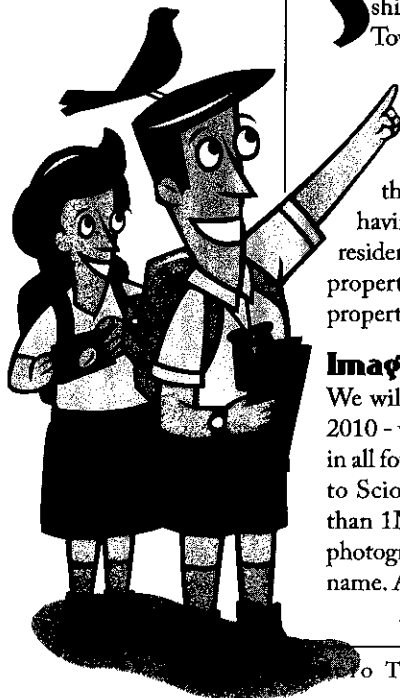
Scio Township

Summer 2009

COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Looking to the future

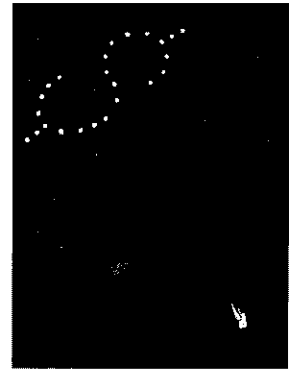
A number of Township efforts have been ongoing in the past months, all looking at a long-term time horizon, to better position Scio for the long haul ahead. Foremost is our continuing relationship with the Village of Dexter. We held another joint meeting between the Scio Board of Trustees and the Dexter Village Council. This effort has spun off two subcommittees to work on separate issues. The first committee is working on mutual issues relating to the Promulgation Agreements between the Township and Village, which attempted to establish future boundaries between our two communities. A second subcommittee is dealing with mutual issues involving community growth, such as parks, recreation, open space and land use. These cooperative efforts hold the promise of saving time and energy for both communities, and hopefully will lead to an improvement in the lives of

all of our citizens, irrespective of which community they live in.

Public Safety planning

In similar fashion we are participating in discussions about consolidating fire services across the western Washtenaw area involving six townships, the City of Chelsea and the Village of Dexter. Your Township Board is committed to investigating ways in which we can improve services and/or lower costs. Irrespective of where this particular effort goes, we will continue to explore alternatives that hold

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2



LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION NEWS BY IRWIN MARTIN

Land Preservation Photo Contest

Photo contest announced

Since the passage of "Proposal J" in 2004, the Township of Scio has protected five properties within the Township. Using funds raised by the Township millage as well as funding from other governmental agencies when available, Scio has protected farmland, woodlands and open space. In an attempt to share the beauty of these properties with its residents, the Scio Land Preservation Commission (LPC) is having a Land Preservation Photo Contest. We invite residents to submit photographs, taken on any protected property listed below, that highlight the beauty of the property and the reason it was preserved.

Images from all four seasons

We will be accepting digital photographs until June 1, 2010 - we want to provide the opportunity to get images in all four seasons. Please submit your digital photographs to ScioPhotos@gmail.com. Files should be no larger than 1MB. They should be named and include the site photographed, but should not include the photographer's name. All entries will be coded and judges will not have

access to names of the photographers. Judges will be two Scio residents who are also members of the Ann Arbor Camera Club.

Photos can be used on website

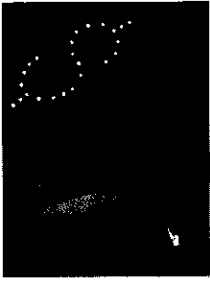
Prizes will be awarded for first place (\$100), second place (\$50), third place (\$25) and Honorable Mention. Photographs will be judged on composition and ability to convey the natural beauty of our Township as seen on these protected parcels. All photographs selected may be used by the Township to document the beauty of these parcels. All entrants, therefore, give permission to the Township of Scio to publish and display all or portions of submitted images. The only compensation to be awarded, other than that for contest winners, will be the accreditation for each of the photographs we publish. Please document permission from any recognizable person in a submitted photograph for use of their image.

Check before you go

Some of these properties are visible only from public roads or onsite and only with prior approval. Please note below

Photo Contest continued on page 2

The Township is financially sound and we intend to keep it that way while Michigan and our Country work to restore our economy.



...highlight the beauty of the property and the reason it was preserved.



...having the newsletter delivered electronically is very popular with Township residents

From The Supervisor's Desk continued from page 1

out the promise of improving fire services. We have also indicated to Washtenaw County that we intend to add additional Sheriff's deputies, however, we are holding up a final decision while waiting for the results of a federal COPS grant application which was filed with the assistance of the Sheriff's Department. If approved, the grant would provide three years of financial assistance for the hiring of three additional deputies.

Assisting with local road repair

The Township is also currently working with the Washtenaw County Road Commission to try and find ways to improve our local roads. Recently, the residents of the Wing Subdivision agreed to establish a special assessment district to repair their subdivision roads (see related article on page XX). Essentially, the residents agreed to tax themselves over time to fix their roads, with the knowledge that neither the Road Commission, which has ultimate responsibility for our roads, nor the Township would be able to fund their needed road repairs. The Township was

Photo Contest continued from page 1

those properties for which permission must be obtained. Photographs taken at any time on the following properties are eligible. As more properties are protected, additional notice will be provided:

Fox Science Preserve Located on the east side of Peters Rd. one-half mile north of Miller Rd. Operated by Washtenaw County Parks. Open to the public during daylight hours. Parking area with informational kiosk.

Davenport Farm Accessible from public roads only; no access to property. Located on the east side of Parker Rd. and the north side of Marshall Rd., east to the bridge over Mill Creek.

Scio Church Woods Preserve Located on the north side of Scio Church Rd. one-half mile west of Wagner Rd. Operated

able to provide modest financial assistance through Road Commission matching money, and may be able to provide similar modest incentives in the future for these types of projects. We continue to work with the Township Board-established Roads Committee to try and find ways to meet the problems of our deteriorating roads.

Planning for future public utilities

Last but not least, the Township is examining our future need for water and sewer within the designated Jackson Road utilities area. We have reinstated regular meetings with representatives of the Ann Arbor Utilities Department, seeking to resolve any currently outstanding issues and preparing for our future.

Keeping our finances under control

While economic times are tough in the State of Michigan, the Township continues to examine all of our financial operations thereby keeping our heads above the financial rough waters. The Township is financially sound and we intend to keep it that way while Michigan and our Country work to restore our economy.

by Washtenaw County Parks. Open to the public during daylight hours. Parking not yet established but there are a couple driveways to pull off and park. Some driveways serve private residences so avoid those.

Botsford Located on the south side of Miller Rd. just west of the M-14 intersection; look for the sign for the Botsford Recreational Preserve. Open to the public during daylight hours. Parking along the utility right-of-way just past the entrance. The protected land is on the west side of the property; the buildings on the east side are not included.

Gordon Hall (Scio portion; requires permission from the Dexter Area Historical Society unless photographing from Island Lake Rd.). Located adjacent to the railroad grade west of the Village of Dexter. The historic mansion is on the Webster Township portion of the property; the Scio portion is to the south (left as one faces the mansion).

SCIO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER BY DAVID READ

Electronic Delivery of the Newsletter

Your response was overwhelming and unanimous. It seems that the option of having the newsletter delivered electronically is very popular with Township residents. While everyone who responded was in support of this idea, one or two were concerned about privacy. They were concerned that our email list could be put to other uses. We can guarantee you that the Township will only use this list for newsletter notification. However, being a government body the Township has to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. If asked, we will have to turn over the email list to the requester. However, many email systems have the ability to filter out mail coming from a sender who is not in your contact list, which might help alleviate the problem.

We have been working with the County to set-up the system to control the email list for newsletter notification.

This system, much like the Sheriff's alert system (<http://ewashtenaw.org/sheriff>), will allow you to subscribe to the electronic notification or to unsubscribe if you wish. As mentioned last quarter, if you choose to have the newsletter electronically "delivered", your household will no longer receive a paper copy, saving money and resources. All you'll need is your email address and the Mail Code from the address label on this quarter's newsletter. With that information at hand, go to:

http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/scio_newsletter_subscribe.html and follow the instructions. Please note that the above address uses underscores (_) not spaces. If you have any problems or questions, let us know at newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us.

Jackson Road is in full swing

...the orange barrels will be with us until November or December

Phase III of the boulevard construction project on Jackson Road is in full swing. Concrete for the westbound lanes was installed in May and two-way traffic has been shifted onto those new lanes. The persistent rains we've experienced this spring have put the project about 2 or 3 weeks behind schedule, but the contractor is optimistic that he can make up that time during the next stage of construction, provided the weather begins to cooperate.



There is still much to be done

As far as the road itself is concerned, the remaining work includes building the eastbound lanes, crossovers, and driveways. In addition to pavement construction, the remaining tasks include site restoration work, landscaping, road sign installation, and re-installing business signs that had to be moved. So, the orange barrels will be with us until November or December.

Your patience appreciated

Both the Scio DDA and the Washtenaw County Road Commission want to extend their thanks to everyone who travels through the construction zone. We appreciate your patience very much. And, we especially want to thank the property owners in the construction area for their patience. The project is disruptive and unattractive right now, but our aim is to provide you with a safe, efficient, and attractive road when it's all done.

TOWNSHIP NEWS BY DARRELL FECHO, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Township Codifies Ordinances

This is the first time that Scio Township has compiled its regulations

The Board of Trustees has adopted the Scio Township Code. This project, which took three years to complete, incorporates all adopted ordinances of the Township into a single codified document. This is the first time that Scio Township has compiled its regulations. All active regulations are included in the document. Previous ordinances that are not restated in the Code are now repealed. Many of the ordinances that the Code replaces

were passed as far back as the 1960's. The Code updates regulations for appropriate changes in related state laws and federal regulations. Enforcement and voluntary compliance of local laws should increase by having all the Township regulations updated and cross-referenced in a single Code book. The Scio Township Code is available on the Scio website at <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/>

CLERK'S CORNER BY NANCY HEDBERG, CLERK

Election Update

With declining revenues at all levels, every dollar we save could instead be invested in our children's education.

Thank you to all who turned out for the May 5th School Elections. Because we are allowed by State law to consolidate precincts for school elections, we were able to save a considerable amount of money. Turnout for school elections are typically low (in May, we only had 3% of registered voters cast a ballot). No matter what the turnout, the cost is the same. I would encourage you to contact your school board members to consider moving their elections to a November election date. With declining revenues at all levels, every dollar we save could instead be invested in our children's education.

Remember to register

In Scio Township there is nothing scheduled for August's Primary. Registration cutoff 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 office if you need to amend your registration record. November's

ballot may have a Washtenaw Intermediate Schools request for a 2 mill countywide schools tax. We won't know until August because all of the districts involved have to agree to the new tax. Remember to register so you can be part of this important decision.

Permanent Absent Voter list

We maintain a Permanent Absent Voter list and if you meet any of the qualifications, you may request to be added to this list. Voters on the permanent list automatically are mailed an Absent Voter application before each election. When returned to the Clerk's office, an Absentee Ballot is mailed to your home as soon as the ballots are available. You may be on the permanent AV list if you are 60 years or older. Other reasons include: physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; the tenets of your religion; or you are an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside.

Scio Township Roads: An Analysis

Sixteen percent of the segments are rated as "failed" or "very poor" in both surface quality and drainage.

Scio's Road System.

Scio Township has 108.54 miles of public roads within its borders, not counting the federal interstate system (I-94 & M-14). Officially, the system is divided into two categories: Primary Roads (like Zeeb, Wagner, Miller, and Scio Church) and Local Roads (everything else). But to be really useful, we need to further define these categories.

Primary vs. Commercial

Scio has 47.95 total miles of primary roads. Just over four miles (4.12) of this road is in the Jackson Road corridor and can usefully be thought of as "Commercial". And though the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) lists these segments as just plain primary roads, in fact the township has acted in concert with the WCRC to provide it with its own separate planning and funding (the Downtown Development Authority, or DDA).

Connector vs. Subdivision

Some 60.59 miles of road, representing the balance of Scio's public road system, are classified as local roads. But functionally, this portion is broken into two parts as well. Just over 25 miles (25.09) are regarded as local "connectors" - North Delhi, Marshall, Park, and the portion of Liberty lying west of Zeeb for example - while the balance (35.51 miles) are basically subdivision roads. Local connectors serve both the people who live along them and provide links between wider areas. As a general rule, public roads in subdivisions are not useful as connectors.

Current Condition of Scio's Road System

For the better part of the last three years, the Scio Township Local Roads Committee has been assessing the state of our road system. Recently, it published the Scio Road Condition Index (ScioRCI), which divides the system into 213 separate segments and rates each segment on its surface quality and drainage.

The results can be found on the Township website (www.twp.scio.mi.us). The database is in excel and can be sorted a number of different ways. The ScioRCI confirms what we all see: our Township roads are in pretty poor shape.

How bad are they?

Sixteen percent of the segments are rated as "failed" or "very poor" in both surface quality and drainage. Over 50% get a "fail" or a "very poor" in one of the two categories. And three-quarters of the segments score 25 or below on the "priority index" - a scale of 1 to 100 where 100 is perfect. The WCRC recently updated its own ratings of Scio roads, with the results closely paralleling those of the ScioRCI. One note of caution, however, the County's rating system covers only paved roads

Who is Responsible for Scio Roads?

If asked this question, most of us would say, "...well, if they are public roads, then the road commission is responsible." And that is true when you are talking about authority: only the road commission is authorized to work on public roads (though they can and do hire subcontractors from the private sector). But when it comes to funding work on public roads, this answer is not accurate.

Road Funding Inadequate and in Jeopardy

The road commission gets its money from a number of sources, but the vast majority comes from the State of Michigan (Act 51) - and most of the Act 51 money comes from the tax on gasoline. That situation has jeopardized the investment in Michigan roads in three ways: 1) Michigan gas tax is 19 cents/gallon, compared with 28 cents per gallon in neighboring States; 2) As our cars get more fuel efficient, we purchase fewer gallons; 3) As Michigan loses jobs, it is losing drivers - or at best it prompts those who stay in Michigan to reduce the miles they drive. Act 51 provides the WCRC with an annual payment of \$1,551/mile of local road. In other words, the WCRC receives about \$93,000 a year that can be applied to Scio local roads - and once they have paid for snowplowing (labor, equipment, salt, etc.), most of that is gone. They do some grading of the gravel roads, patch the worst potholes on paved segments, maintain some signs, but that's it. There is no money left for significant repairs, let alone reconstruction or repaving.

WCRC's funds are restricted

Moreover, Section 12(15) of Act 51 forbids county road commissions from paying more than 50% of most significant projects on local roads. So even if the WCRC had enough money to invest in the Scio local roads, it cannot do so unless and until the Township at least matches the WCRC contribution.

What Investments has Scio Made in its Local Roads?

The Scio Local Roads Committee has produced a set of tables which compare investments in local roads by the twenty townships in Washtenaw County over the past

Scio Township Roads continued on page 5

Summer Tax Time

You should have already received your 2009 summer tax bill. If not, please call our office. Many thanks to all who help keep our records correct.

A Reminder

Returned tax bills will not be re-mailed. Please make sure we have your correct mailing information (summer vacation address etc.) Tax bills are not subject to forwarding orders and are automatically returned to the Township.

OUR ENVIRONMENT BY DAVID READ

Water Quality in Honey Creek

MDEQ's analysis of the data suggests that the source of the pollution may be non-human

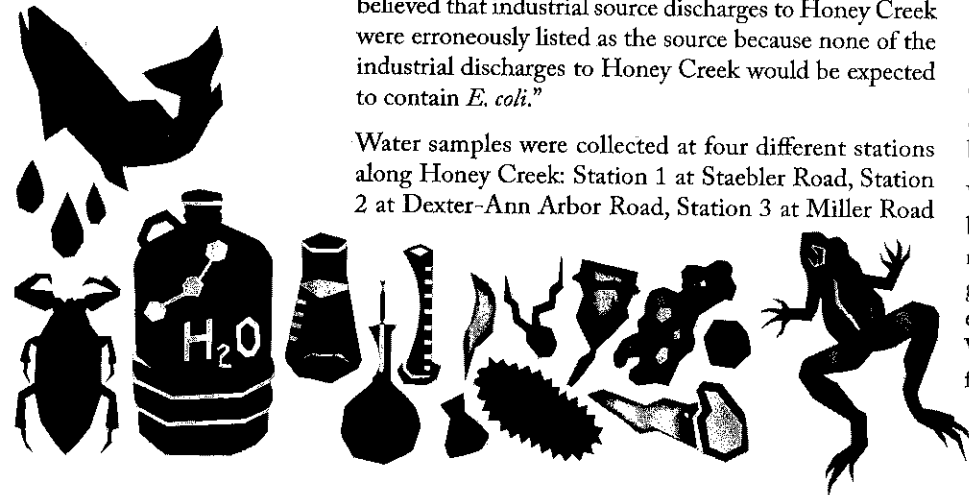
Scio Township has received a draft copy of a water quality report on Honey Creek from the Water Bureau of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This was a follow up to a 2008 report from the Washtenaw County Environmental Health Department (WCEHD), which reported on data collected in the fall of 2007. In both reports, the *E. coli* level in Honey Creek was found to be over the limit established for both Total Body Contact (TBC) and Partial Body Contact (PBC.) The MDEQ's report modifies the one from the WCEHD with respect to the source of the pollution saying: "It is believed that industrial source discharges to Honey Creek were erroneously listed as the source because none of the industrial discharges to Honey Creek would be expected to contain *E. coli*."

Water samples were collected at four different stations along Honey Creek: Station 1 at Staebler Road, Station 2 at Dexter-Ann Arbor Road, Station 3 at Miller Road

and Station 4 at the Creek's confluence with the Huron River. Ten sets of samples were taken from August 24th through October 26th.

MDEQ's analysis of the data suggests that the source of the pollution may be non-human saying: "The lack of a human biomarker in the BST sample collected at Station 1, on October 12, suggests that animals (pets, livestock, and wildlife) were a source of *E. coli* to Honey Creek at the time the sample was taken." The report goes on to say: "Illegal dumping of trash can contribute to *E. coli* in surface water bodies by pet wastes (such as kitty litter or dog feces) and human waste (such as soiled diapers). The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission has noted that illegal dumping of trash is a problem upstream of Station 1, at Staebler Road. Litter in that area is so prevalent that it can be seen in aerial photos (Google Earth, 2009)."

While the ultimate source(s) of this pollution may never be known, we can all do our part to help eliminate the non-point sources. We can do this by disposing of our garbage properly and picking up after our pets. This is especially important in areas of high population density. With many homes come many families and with many families come many pets. When we don't pick up after our pets, their waste is washed into the nearest body of water with the next rainfall. Let's all do our part to help clean up Honey Creek



Scio Township Roads continued from page 4

one, three, and five-year periods (www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters). As you can see from the data, Scio ranks last in nearly every category – and usually by wide margins. Neighboring townships like Ann Arbor, Webster, and Lodi have devoted much more attention to their road system, by both absolute and comparative measures.

What are the Alternatives?

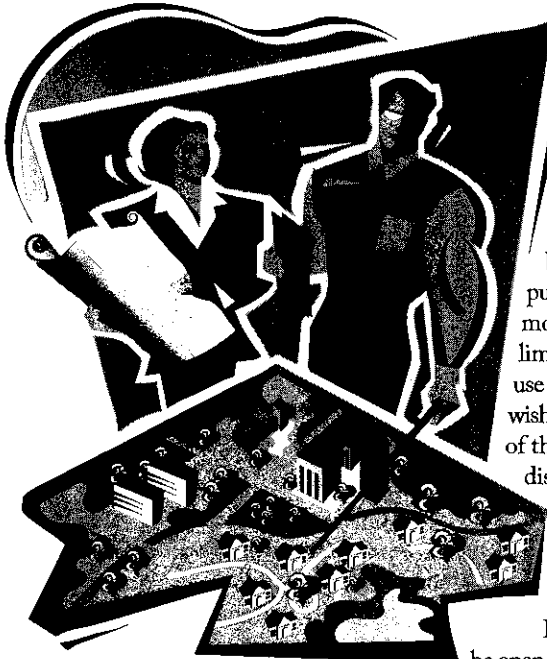
More money is needed, of course – but the details of any plan deserve a discussion beyond the limits of this article. However, one interesting alternative is a Special Assessment District (SAD), which provides a method by which residents can tax themselves to fix their own roads. Wing

Meadows (right across Zeeb Road from the Township fire station) is nearing completion of such a project. Thirty-two homeowners are committing themselves to spend about \$5,000 each to reconstruct and repave 0.62 miles of their own subdivision roads (Wing Drive and Harold Circle). Construction will commence in September, but the owners can choose to pay their portion upfront or stretch the payments over ten years. The Township and the WCRC combined to defray a portion (about 15%) of the total project.

Would you like to learn more?

If you would like to learn more about our local roads or a Road SAD, come to our meetings. We meet at 3:00 on the third Thursday of the month in Township Hall. For details, contact me at lewkidder@comcast.net or 662-1000.

Planning Commission Update



Development Updates Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, LLC

Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, LLC. This new company plans to lease the building at 6241 Jackson Road (Building B on the south side between Staebler and Zeeb) for the purpose of assembling and storing electric motorcycles. The property is zoned I-1, limited industrial and this is an allowed use in this zone. Additionally, the applicant wishes to operate a showroom for retail sales of the motorcycles. This use in the zoning district requires a conditional use permit and appropriate approvals. In May, the Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this conditional use application and with Board approval, the applicant hopes to be open for business this summer. The applicant brought a shiny red motorcycle to the meeting for the commission's viewing pleasure.

Lowe's Outlots

This project includes the property along Jackson Road on the west side of Lowe's entrance drive. The proposal was approved by the Township in the summer of 2007 and includes 2 buildings, one for retail/restaurant uses and the other for a fast food restaurant. Because of changes in the economy, the developers put the project on hold and since then have sold the approved project to new developers. The new developers have applied for zoning compliance with the intent to start construction this year.

New Commissioners Appointed

As stipulated in the Planning Commission's By-Laws, Planning Commissioners are appointed by the Supervisor with Board of Trustee approval for three year terms, beginning and expiring at the end of June. The terms are staggered so that every year the terms of two of the commissioners expire. This July we say farewell and offer many thanks to Martha Mayo who resigns after a long service of 12 years on the Commission, serving three years as Chair. Her accomplishments are sizeable and we are grateful for her dedicated service over the years. Gerry Kangas has been reappointed for a new three-year term on the Commission, while Jim Cameron has been appointed to his first term and returns in official capacity after serving several years as Scio Township Trustee.

Master Plan Implementation

Now that we have adopted a new Master Land Use Plan (MP), we face the ongoing business of reviewing and revising other Township documents to make sure they are consistent with the MP. See the entire Master Land Use Plan on the Township's website: <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/news/Master%20Land%20Use%20Plan>

The MP includes a chapter on Implementation that outlines actions and programs that will be useful if the MP is to be followed. To this end, the Planning Commission has a standing committee called Zoning Ordinance Amendment Committee. This group keeps tabs on the sections of the Zoning Ordinance that should be reviewed to make sure they are kept current. Here is a quick summary of a few areas that are at the top of the list.

Jackson Road Overlay.

A few years ago the Planning Commission adopted some design guidelines to help developers understand what a finished project along Jackson Road should look like. In the new MP, objectives for site and building design have been sketched out in some conceptual diagrams which further depict the physical appearance of a Jackson Road project desired by the Township. Currently, with the considerable assistance of our planning consultant, we are converting all of these guidelines into zoning ordinance provisions that will translate into required standards for such items as parking, landscaping, building masses and heights.

Tree and Woodland Ordinance

One of the action items listed in the Implementation Chapter of the MP is to review and revise as necessary tree and woodland preservation ordinances to bring them in line with the MP goals and objectives. Article 12.06, Tree and Woodland Resource Preservation, has been revised and is ready for review late this summer with public hearing and adoption planned for this fall. A more detailed description of the revisions will be available soon.

Article 4 District Regulations

This is a chapter in the Zoning Ordinance that lays out in great detail what can be done in the different zoning districts in the Township - what uses are allowed in C-2 commercial, I-1 industrial, R-1 residential, etc. and also lists lot sizes, setbacks, parking requirements for these different uses. The new MP, especially in the Jackson Road corridor, now calls for blending commercial, office and residential uses that might complement each other into a single development. This is a shift away from strict separation of uses into blocks of commercial, then blocks of industrial, then blocks of office, but rather allows for more flexibility and creativity in mixing compatible uses that support a more complete living experience. The Planning Commission is reviewing this Zoning Ordinance chapter for possible revisions to better reflect the MP.

Alternative Energy

The new mandate, coming from so many sectors in our daily life, for alternative energy sources gives us the sense of urgency to make sure our ordinances are ready to not only regulate but to encourage the new technologies rapidly developing to meet this mandate. A new ordinance chapter is underway and should be ready for review this fall.

The new mandate for alternative energy sources gives us the sense of urgency to make sure our ordinances are ready



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.

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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
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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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EDC UPDATE BY SCOTT HEDBERG

1st Annual Jackson Road Cruise

Thank-you
to all that
came out
to make our
Cruise a
success!

A heartfelt "Thank-you" goes out to the 67 sponsors, 20 committee members, 23 volunteers and 500 cruisers that came out to make our Cruise a success!

Weather was our first concern

With trepidation, not unlike that felt when picking a date for an outdoor wedding, the committee selected the May date in January. This was done so there would be plenty of time for publicity. After months of work and lots of weather concerns, on the morning of the cruise we woke to a light rain and knew those cruisers that would melt would not be coming. But, many volunteers were out early getting ready and setting up for the event.

A full day of activities

Community leaders met for breakfast and the cruise was kicked off with a parade led by 14 fire trucks and including our State Representative, Pam Byrnes and State Senator, Liz Brater. Fire Departments from Scio Township, Dexter Fire Authority and

Ann Arbor Township as well as the Fire House Museum participated along the 3.5 miles of completed boulevard.

Good weather after all

When the sun pushed the clouds away, more cars came out to show their shine, rumble their engines and enjoy the camaraderie with crowd and cruisers. Many who have participated in the Woodward Dream Cruise marveled at the success of the first Jackson Road Cruise. There were 10 businesses - Weber's Inn, Varsity, Suburban, Bradley, Dunning, Sesi, AA Automotive, Nicholson's, Harley Davidson and Meijer - that participated as car show and/or hub sites. During the day cars cruised from Weber's Inn to Meijer's parking lot.

Save the date

The "Grand Opening Jackson Road Cruise" is planned for May 22, 2010 when the total boulevard will be open. We need volunteers and sponsors to help make this second one a success. If you would like more information on the cruise and how you can help, go to: www.JRCruise.org

