



## FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

### PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY AND PARTICIPATE!

**S**cio Township is in the early stages of updating our Master Land Use Plan and your input is needed to help shape the physical future of our township. **A Community Survey will be available starting February 1 and can be responded to online or by hard copy.** The survey will help us gather the ideas and concerns of residents on a wide variety of topics, so we can incorporate them into the Goals and Policies section of the new plan.

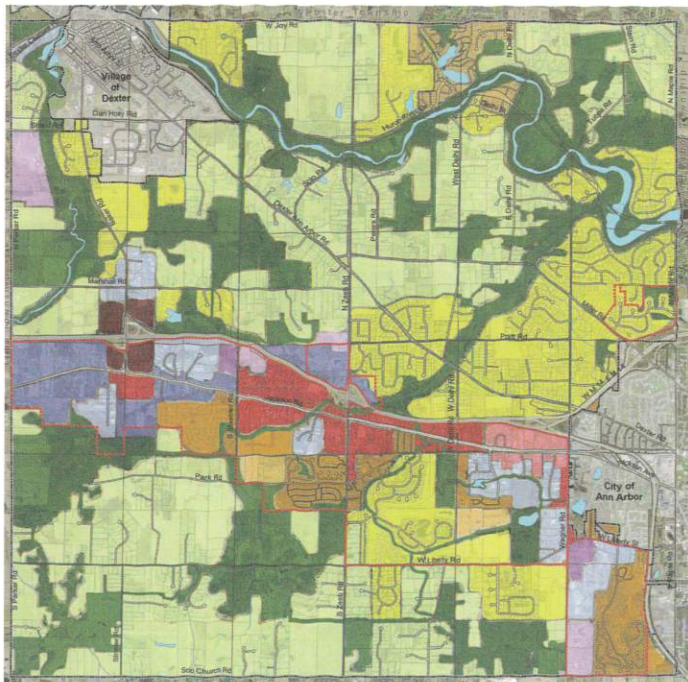
If you are not familiar with the Township Master Land Use Plan (some communities call it a Future Land Use Plan), it is a plan that articulates a vision for the community's future growth and development. It is the primary official Township document which sets forth growth and development policies for the future of the community, and on which development proposals are reviewed. The Township derives its authority for the preparation of a Master Land Use Plan from Public Act 33 of 2008, which states:

BY JACK KNOWLES, SUPERVISOR

*A master plan shall address land use and infrastructure issues and may project 20 years or more into the future. A master plan shall include maps, plats, charts, and descriptive, explanatory, and other related matter and shall show the Planning Commission's recommendations for the physical development of the planning jurisdiction.*

The survey will be available from February 1 through February 29 (yes, leap year gives you one extra day to participate!). Find the survey

*Continued on page 2*



- Open Space, Agricultural & Rural Residential - 1 d.u./2.5 acres+
- Low Density Residential - 1 d.u./1 acre to 1 d.u./2.5 acres
- Medium Density Residential - 4 d.u./1 acre to 1 d.u./1 acre
- High Density Residential - 8 d.u./1 acre to 4 d.u./1 acre
- Mixed Use Commercial
- Composite Commercial Mixed Use Highway Commercial
- Mixed Use Office/Industrial
- Office/Industrial General
- Industrial
- Public & Semi-Public
- Recreation/Conservation
- Township Boundaries
- Sanitary Sewer Service Area
- Streams, Creeks & Drains
- Lakes, Ponds & Rivers

**FUTURE LAND USE MAP**  
Scio Township

Source: Washtenaw County Planning Map Data  
January 31, 2015  
Cartline / Wortman Associates, Inc.

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online by clicking on the Master Plan Survey link on the Township website, [www.sciotownship.org](http://www.sciotownship.org). Printed copies are available at the front counter in Township Hall at 827 N. Zeeb Road.

**In addition to the survey, two public visioning sessions are planned for April, and all residents are invited to attend.**

Separate daytime and evening sessions have been scheduled to encourage maximum public participation. The same information is being presented at both sessions:

Thursday, April 16, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

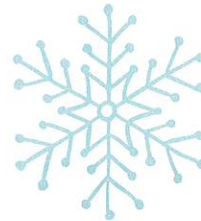
Thursday, April 23, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

All residents are urged to get involved in creating this very important policy document through the public input process. Should you

have any questions on the Master Land Use Plan or the opportunities for public input please contact our planner, Doug Lewan, at [dlewan@sciotownship.org](mailto:dlewan@sciotownship.org), or phone him here at the Township, (734) 369-9400.

### RECENTLY MOVED TO SCIO?

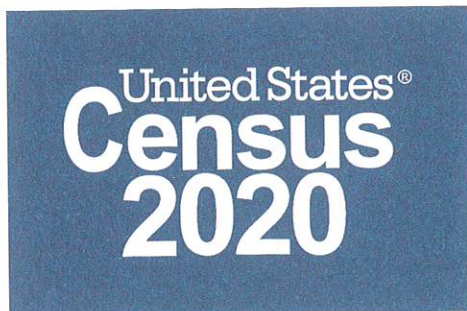
Not sure if you are registered to vote... or where to vote? All this and more (including voter registration!) can now be found at [mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/](http://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/).



## THE 2020 CENSUS

### COUNT EVERY PERSON. ONCE. IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

**T**he 2020 Census will be collecting data from March to June 2020. Mandated by the U.S. Constitution to occur every ten years, this year's Census is different from previous ones, featuring shorter questions answerable by phone, online, or on paper. Questions asked include: name, age, sex, Hispanic origin, race, relation to respondent, and whether you rent or own your home. **There is no citizenship question.**



### WHY DO WE NEED A CENSUS?

- Data from the census is used to **reapportion Congress** every ten years. If Michiganders are not completely counted, we could lose one or more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Census information is key to drawing **election districts**, including those used for local elections.

- Census information determines allocation of billions of federal dollars. **Michigan received \$29.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2016** to pay for such things as Medicare, Medicaid, direct student loans, and highway planning and construction.
- Demographic information from **the Census supports planning for public safety and emergency preparedness.**
- Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, creating jobs.

### PRIVACY

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with ICE, FBI, CIA, or any other government agency; or publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household, for 72 years (that's 2092!).

### SECURITY

The Census Bureau will **never** ask you for:

- Your Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank or credit card account numbers

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, by phone, by email, or in person, it's a scam.

BY MARGARET LEARY,  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:**

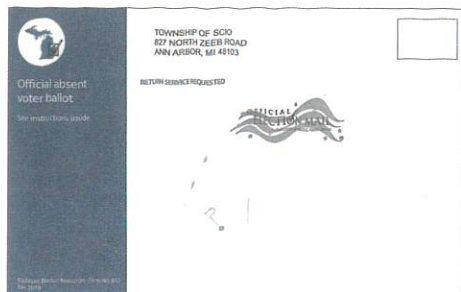
- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative
- If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff (734) 971-8400.

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area offers a free presentation, "The 2020 Census: Count Every Person. Once. In the Right Place," covering what the 2020 Census is and why it matters. The presentation includes Census Bureau handouts and text of the Census questions in English and other languages. Available days, evenings, weekdays, and weekends throughout Washtenaw County, January through March 2020. Contact Margaret Leary, [mleary@umich.edu](mailto:mleary@umich.edu), to schedule this presentation for your group.

# ELECTIONS UPDATE

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

**T**hanks to all who participated in the November 2019 election, voters and election inspectors. Absent voter participation amounted to 40 percent of all votes cast in Scio. Statewide, absent voter participation accounted for about 50 percent of votes cast. As time goes on, the expectation is that more and more citizens will participate in voting via the absent voter ballot.



A "new look" for your Absent Voter Ballot envelope

**With that said, if you haven't already signed up for the Permanent Absent Voter list, send an email to [clerk@sciotownship.org](mailto:clerk@sciotownship.org) with your name and residential mailing address asking to be added.** When you do, you will receive an Absent Voter Ballot Application about two months before every election. If you want to vote in person, please do so! Just discard the Absent Voter Application and show up at the polls on election day.

**The next opportunity to vote in Scio Township will be March 10.** Voters in Precincts 4 and 6 may already know that their polling places have been permanently moved. All polling locations are listed as follows:

## WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Washtenaw County offers a free residential energy conservation program that provides home improvement services to low-income Washtenaw County homeowners and renters. These services can reduce utility expenses by up to 30 percent. Available services include a comprehensive energy audit, repair or replace inefficient furnaces and water heaters, replace old refrigerators, seal and insulate walls, attics, and crawl spaces, and install energy efficient light and fresh air fan systems. Any Washtenaw resident, homeowner or renter, with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level may qualify for the program. Interested? Call (734) 544-3008, or e-mail [cudneym@washtenaw.org](mailto:cudneym@washtenaw.org).

### PRECINCT 1

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,  
1819 S Wagner Rd

### PRECINCT 2

Scio Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Rd

### PRECINCT 3

Scio Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Rd

### PRECINCT 4 *\*new location*

Polo Fields Clubhouse,  
5200 Polo Fields Drive

### PRECINCT 5

Scio Farms Clubhouse, 6655 Jackson Rd

### PRECINCT 6 *\*new location*

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,  
1819 S Wagner Rd

### PRECINCT 7

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,  
1819 S Wagner Rd

### PRECINCT 8

Scio Community Church, 1293 N Zeeb Rd

Thanks to all of our gracious polling locations for hosting the voters of Scio and **a special welcome to the management team at the Polo Fields Clubhouse for agreeing to host Precinct 4!**

Not sure which precinct you are in? Can't find that pesky Voter Information card you got when you registered? Check out the map on the back of this newsletter to find your precinct or call our Township Clerk's office at (734) 369-9400—we'll be happy to look you up! Or, check out the Michigan Voter Information Center at

## FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 10

### New Voters Must Register in Person at the Clerk's Office

827 North Zeeb Road  
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

### Bonus hours

Saturday, March 7, 9 am - 2 pm  
Sunday, March 8, 11 am - 3 pm  
Election Day, 7 am - 8 pm

[mvc.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvc.sos.state.mi.us) to register, track your absent voter ballot, or find your polling place.

### Finally, a word about election security.

You may have recently heard news about improvements being made to Michigan's Qualified Voter File or the training requirements for election administrators. The state Auditor General's report of December 2019 is timely—identifying relatively small areas of improvement, and highlighting the longstanding system in place in Michigan that already contains the safeguards recommended by national security and cybersecurity experts. In addition, we have paper ballots and other essential records on paper, our election inspectors are well trained, and our equipment is securely stored and maintained. **We can be proud to know that Michigan remains ahead of the nation in our ongoing efforts to administer free and fair elections.**

## GOING ON VACATION?

The Washtenaw County Sheriff Department offers "House Watch." Fill out the form at [www.washtenaw.org/1743/House-Watch](http://www.washtenaw.org/1743/House-Watch) and the Sheriff Department will check on your home while you are away, notifying you or your designated local representative of anything out of the ordinary. Feel more secure about your home while you are away!

# SCOTT MARTIN RETIRES

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Scott Martin, Scio Township Utilities Director for over 13 years, who retired effective January 1. Scott came to Scio after 24 years with the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, where he started out as a meter reader and ended up head of the Service department. **During his tenure in Scio, Scott professionalized the Utilities Department**—getting accounts in order, building infrastructure required by contracts with Ann Arbor, and overseeing many other water and sewer projects. Scott counts being the staff representative in the expansion of Town Hall as one of his proudest accomplishments.

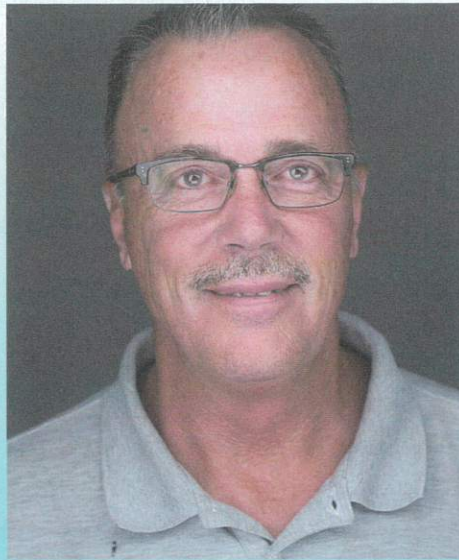


Photo by robertreadphoto.com

He noted with a chuckle, "When I got here, we had to store our tools in the Water Tower, there wasn't any other room!" **But he seems to have had the most fun overseeing infrastructure projects that ensured our growing township has the water flows it needs.** Who says infrastructure isn't fun? Scott and his wife, Dianna, are planning to move to the Grand Rapids area, where they have five grand-children they want to spend more time with. He wiggles his eyebrows with glee as he speculates about "getting involved in politics" during this next phase of his life. May the road rise to meet you, Scott, wherever it takes you!

# ANN ARBOR CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**T**he Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living has been an active part of the disability community in Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe Counties since 1976. **We are a non-profit organization serving people with disabilities under a broad mission.** All services are provided at no cost. Our staff works with and for people with disabilities, providing:

- Advocacy to make our communities more accessible, friendlier, and livable
- Assistance accessing community resources
- Career services

- Disability training for businesses and organizations
- Independent living coaching
- Peer support and help with social isolation
- Small business development assistance
- Recreation and arts programming
- Transitions from nursing facilities back into the community
- Volunteer and training opportunities
- Youth programming

The AACIL fosters collaborative partnerships with individuals, organizations, businesses, and institutions. Our staff of 26 invites in

BY ALEX GOSSAGE,  
AACIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

volunteer groups, individuals, and interns from multiple institutions (more than 175 in 2019!). Annually, we work with 4000+ clients, some once, and some multiple times a week. We hosted over 150 support groups, had over 1000 recreation program participants, and provided disability awareness workshops to more than 2500 people in 40+ schools, colleges and universities, agencies, and organizations across our service area.

If you are in search of resources, would like assistance with maximizing your personal independence, are searching for new social opportunities, or want to work with us to support advocacy initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can visit our website at [www.annarborcil.org](http://www.annarborcil.org), stop by our offices at 3941 Research Park Drive, call us at (734) 971-0277 or email us at [info@aacil.org](mailto:info@aacil.org).

## LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!

Scio Township is getting a new website. If you have photos of the Township that you would like to be considered for publication on the website, please email them to Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator, at [kaiken@sciotownship.org](mailto:kaiken@sciotownship.org). And please add a note about where and when the photo was taken.

# LAND PRESERVATION UPDATE

**S**cio Township's Land Preservation Program recently purchased a conservation easement on a 44-acre property located in Section 16 on Marshall Road, from Dennis and Sandy Haas. We also have the option to purchase the property at a future time. The Haas property is comprised almost entirely of high-quality upland woods, and is part of a large wooded complex that has been a focus for preservation for many years. It is adjacent to other previously acquired easements and preserves, amounting to 238 contiguous acres of protected farmland and open space in that area of the Township. **Dennis and Sandy purchased a portion of the land from his parents many years back, and moved their sons from the city to the country to raise them surrounded by nature.** They are particularly glad that the land will not be developed and nature will continue to thrive there.

Conservation easements are permanent deed restrictions on the use of a property. Purchasing easements costs less than buying property

outright, and keeps the property on the tax rolls and contributing to the local economy, while maintaining it in a natural state.

Scio Township's land preservation program is funded by a dedicated millage that voters passed in 2004 and renewed in 2012, both by large margins. **With the addition of the Haas property, nearly 1500 total acres have been protected from development so far.**

BY BARRY LONIK, CONSULTANT TO THE SCIO LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Township has attracted over \$8 million in matching funds from other sources to do this work.

Find out more about the Scio Land Preservation Commission and get involved by checking the Township website under the tab "Boards and Commissions."



## BORDER TO BORDER TRAIL

Known as the B2B, this non-motorized pathway connects cities, parks, and many destinations throughout Washtenaw County. The B2B is the product of an ongoing collaboration of communities and organizations dedicated to safe, accessible, shared-use, non-motorized recreation and transportation. View maps of the current trail system at [bordertoborder.org/trail-info](http://bordertoborder.org/trail-info).



## SAVE WATER, SAVE ENERGY

Reducing your "water footprint" can go a long way toward conserving energy. The United States uses about 13 percent of its total electricity output to pump, heat, and treat water. One way we can make a difference is by choosing "low-flow" fixtures and water efficient appliances for our homes. Check out the Environmental Protection Agency's website, [www.epa.gov/WaterSense](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense) for tips, resources, and even rebates for making your home more water efficient.

## COMING SOON!!

Online billing and payment for township utilities will soon be available. Additional services for tax billing and payment will be available starting with the new fiscal year (July 2020). Watch your regular mailbox for more information on this convenient new service for our residents.

**WINTER TAXES  
ARE DUE BY  
FEBRUARY 14**

# MASTER LAND USE PLAN

BY ALEC JEROME AND WILL HATHAWAY,  
MEMBERS OF THE  
SCIO PLANNING COMMISSION

**A**s you make your way around Scio Township, you probably don't give much thought to local zoning. You see some neighborhoods with houses and farms and other areas with offices and stores. **These different structures and developments don't happen by accident.** They are the results of zoning classifications that govern what is permitted on that land. Some land is designated for residential use, while other areas are designated for commercial or industrial uses. According to the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP), "Zoning regulation is one of a number of laws which are adopted to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare."



Smith Nature Area



B2B Pathway

*Find the Community Survey at [www.sciotownship.org](http://www.sciotownship.org) by clicking the link to the Master Plan Survey from February 1 through February 29*

*Public Visioning Sessions for updating the Township Master Land Use Plan will be held Thursday, April 16, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm and Thursday, April 23, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

MAP lists some of the objectives of zoning as:

- Protecting property values
- Protecting natural resources
- Preventing nuisances
- Insuring compatibility of uses
- Preventing overcrowding or overuse

Where do these zoning classifications come from? How does a community decide what land uses it wants to encourage? The answer is the Master Land Use Plan. The Master Plan is the document that each community creates to express its collective vision for how its land will be used. While the plan itself doesn't have the force of law, it serves as the basis for local

zoning ordinance, which is the legal, land-use regulation.

Master plans must be reviewed and updated every five years through a process overseen by the Planning Commission. Scio Township has just begun its 5-year Master Plan review. During this process, residents have an opportunity to share their views about life in the township, identifying what's working well and what areas need improvement. **Ultimately, the Master Land Use Plan is meant to communicate all our aspirations for what it will be like to live in Scio Township in the future.**

An online survey and upcoming public meetings will give citizens multiple opportunities to discuss land use. The Master Plan website will provide all of the information needed to be fully informed and involved in the creation of the latest 5-year master plan.

*Look for additional articles regarding the Planning Commission and their activities in upcoming newsletters.*

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Check your winter tax bill for a special assessment for County drain maintenance. Not every drainage district is assessed every year, only where work on the drain has been done. Drain assessments fund maintenance and repair of the county drain, which benefits all the properties within the drainage district (not just properties next to the drain). More than 60 percent of the land area in Washtenaw County lies within a drainage district. For more information, contact the Washtenaw County Office of the Water Resources Commissioner at (734) 222-6860 or [www.washtenaw.org/drains](http://www.washtenaw.org/drains).

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Do you know someone who needs a warm place to sleep tonight? Find emergency shelter at the Delonis Center, 312 W Huron St in Ann Arbor. Other free services available include a nightly dinner at 5pm, case management, medical care, and assistance finding permanent housing. For information on daytime warming-center locations or any of these other resources, call the Delonis Center at (734) 662-2829.

## ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS:

Assessment Notices will be mailed by February 24

The Board of Review meets:

Monday, March 9, 10 am-4 pm

Wednesday, March 11, 6-9 pm

Saturday, March 14, 10 am-2 pm

# BUDGETING OUR SHARED PRIORITIES

**T**hank you to the 3,010 of you (21 percent of registered Scio voters) who participated in the November 5, 2019 special election to cast your vote on the Township-wide Special Assessment District (SAD) to support the Township's fire services. With 71 percent of the vote, the Fire SAD was renewed and support increased from 0.9 mill to 1.35 mill. This 0.45 mill increase is being collected now, and as part of the upcoming annual budget will be appropriated by the Township Board to activities and facilities of the Fire Department.

**Scio Township trustees and staff continue to be responsible stewards of our public funds, and year after year the Township performs well in its annual audits and other oversight by the State Treasurer.** As Chair of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee, I have had the opportunity to work with Treasurer Donna Palmer, Trustee Irwin Martin, CFO Sandy Egeler, and Accountant Rebecca Maute to

implement regular improvements to our budget and financial policies and practices.

And, some of these improvements must involve you! We want broad and meaningful input from residents into the Township's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year (April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021). **The Township Board plans to hear presentations and discuss the proposed annual budget during the meetings of February 11 and February 25, and plans to adopt the budget on March 24.** Please join us at Township Hall at 7 pm for any of these regularly scheduled Board meetings.

Over the coming year, we are taking steps to make the budget and financial reports of the Township more comprehensive, meaningful, and accessible. If you have thoughts or comments about Township funds, consider attending the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, or contact me directly at [jflintoft@sciotownship.org](mailto:jflintoft@sciotownship.org).



BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

*Board of Trustees Meetings are held at 7 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The public is always welcome, and opportunities for public input are scheduled into every meeting.*

## REMEMBER...!

Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in good repair and free from ice, snow, and other obstructions. Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleared by 6 pm the following day; snow that accumulates during the day must be cleared by noon the following day.



# IT'S TIME TO GET REAL

**Y**our Michigan driver's license or identification card may not get you through airport security later this year.

October 1 is when the federal government will fully enforce the post-9/11 REAL ID Act, and standard state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards will no longer be accepted to board domestic flights within the United States, or when entering certain federal facilities, such as military bases or nuclear power plants.

Many people already have a REAL ID document, such as a valid U.S. passport, a DHS Trusted Traveler Card or an Enhanced Driver's License. **A full list of acceptable REAL ID documents is available at TSA.gov.** Those who don't can make their Michigan license or identification REAL ID-compliant by visiting a Secretary of State branch office and presenting the required



documents. And, if you make an appointment, you'll be in and out in 30 minutes or less.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET A REAL ID:

1. Schedule an appointment at one of our branch offices by visiting [Michigan.gov/SOSAppointments](http://Michigan.gov/SOSAppointments) or calling 888-SOS-MICH. You can make your appointment at any branch in the state, and you don't need to have a renewal mailer to do so. Some branches fill up fast, so book your appointment a few weeks in advance of when you plan to travel. Your REAL ID license or state ID card will be mailed to you.

BY JOCELYN BENSON,  
MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

2. Bring your current driver's license or state identification card.
3. Bring your certified birth certificate, with a raised seal or stamp issued by a governmental agency; your valid, unexpired U.S. passport; or an approved citizenship or legal presence document. (Faxes and photocopies won't be accepted.)
4. If your name differs from what is on your birth certificate, bring certified documents for every time your name has changed, such as marriage licenses or court orders.

There's no additional fee to turn a license or state ID card into a standard REAL ID if it's done during your normal renewal time; otherwise a duplicate card fee of \$9 or \$10 will be charged.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/RealID](http://Michigan.gov/RealID).

# SCIO TOWNSHIP SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**S**cio Township residents believe in the dignity of all types of work and the importance of family. Costs of childcare, medical expenses, caring for aging parents, and other necessary expenses can push anyone—especially families, seniors, and people living with disabilities—to the brink of losing their housing. And, with the “graying of America” and other demographic trends, it is projected that by 2045 Scio will have significantly fewer working-age people contributing to an economy comprised largely of seniors (who all deserve a secure retirement). **With income inequality at its most severe in decades and growing each year, the Township must prioritize policies that allow all of our working families to afford to keep living in Scio.**

A critical part of planning for this future is ensuring that there is a range of housing stock for people at all stages of life and all income levels. We are proud that in October 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the Township's first Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) ordinance to secure the permanent affordability of the Lakestone Apartments on Eyrie Drive. **Under this agreement, families or individuals with incomes not greater than 50-60 percent of Area Median Income are eligible to live in Lakestone Apartments.**

A partnership of the new owner, Lincoln Avenue Capital, and Michigan State Housing Development Agency (MSHDA), the Lakestone Apartments are one critical piece of the array of housing stock we need. Under this new ordinance, the Township will receive an annual

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

service fee in lieu of property taxes. In return, Lakestone Apartments will undergo significant renovations and improvements, and rents and related monthly expenses will be capped at no more than 30 percent of renter income. **The Township has oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the Lakestone Apartments remain affordable and in compliance with all requirements.** In addition, Lakestone residents and others living off Parkland Plaza will benefit from extended sidewalks planned by the Township. Lincoln Avenue Capital will contribute \$50,000 to these sidewalks, another investment in the Township.

This partnership is just the first of several policies we must take to ensure that all of us—and our kids—can continue to thrive in Scio.

## SPOTLIGHT: TAYLOR HANSEN

**S**cio Township and the Scio Township Fire Department (STFD) are pleased to introduce Taylor Hansen, the first female fire fighter in the township's history. Taylor was hired in the summer of 2019 to begin paid on-call work with the STFD

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

and start Fire Academy training. At the Fire Academy, Taylor was elected platoon leader of her group, which entailed building team cohesiveness and morale, something she knows a lot about given her past experiences coaching college women's softball. As soon as she began her training as a fire fighter, Taylor recognized it as “the place I was supposed to be. My passion for the service has grown into something more than just helping others. Being a part of a family and learning from everyone around me has allowed that passion to grow.” Scio Fire Services Director Jon Ichesco sees Taylor as a shining example of the next generation of fire fighters. Welcome Taylor, we're glad to have you!



### BECOME A MASTER RAIN GARDENER

**D**o you have drainage issues on your property? Get advice on how to fix many common drainage issues with easy-to-maintain plantings that will beautify your neighborhood while filtering and cooling polluted runoff so that our streams and rivers run clean. The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission offers on-site visits, advice, and a Master Rain Gardener class. There you can learn how to analyze your drainage problem and design your own rain garden to solve it. Classes are offered both in-person at the Zeeb Road office, and online. Contact Susan Bryan at (734) 222-3814, [bryans@washtenaw.org](mailto:bryans@washtenaw.org), or visit their website [www.MasterRainGardener.org](http://www.MasterRainGardener.org).



# WATER QUALITY IN SCIO TOWNSHIP

BY CHRISTINE GREEN, TRUSTEE

**M**any readers are aware that a group of chemicals known as PFAS have been discovered in the groundwater and waterways in Washtenaw County. PFAS are a class of chemicals (more than 5000) known chemically as polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances. These compounds have been used since the 1950s to make waterproof, stain-resistant, and nonstick products including carpeting, clothing, food wrappings, upholstery, cosmetics, firefighting foam, and lotions. Experts and consumers are increasingly concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health.

## SCIO IS HOME TO A FACILITY WITH PFAS CONTAMINATION

PFAS have now been confirmed at the former Chrysler manufacturing facility on the Huron River at Zeeb Road in Scio Township. The area has been an active hazardous waste cleanup site for ten years and has been under scrutiny for PFAS. PFAS was first detected at this site in 2018 with test results below the 70 parts per trillion (ppt) criteria established in an EPA health advisory.

In 2019, further investigation detected concentrations above the 70 ppt criteria on the northern portion of the property. PFAS was also found in a drinking water well used by employees at the former Chrysler facility. Testing in the spring of 2019 revealed PFAS levels as high as 1,700 ppt in the groundwater at the site, although levels in some areas were much lower. The extent and magnitude of the PFAS contamination is unknown and therefore further testing is imperative.

## WHAT IS EGLE DOING ABOUT THE PFAS AT THIS SITE?

On December 4, 2019, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) commented on a draft report on work completed at the site, and recommended the following actions: 1) additional investigation; 2) another sampling of the on-site drinking water supply well; and 3) an initial feasibility



evaluation of potential remedial alternatives. A final report with EGLE's recommended next steps is expected in January of 2020 but was not available as of this writing.

EGLE will take further monitoring and remediation actions because PFAS are making their way from the groundwater to the river at levels above the state-allowed threshold of 11 parts per trillion, although it is unclear if contamination from this site is affecting PFAS levels at the intake for the Ann Arbor municipal water supply. Since the location is classified as a hazardous waste site, EGLE has greater enforcement authority under state law compared to other contaminated locations.

## WHAT IS THE DANGER TO RESIDENTIAL WELLS IN SCIO FROM THIS SITE?

State officials report that it is unlikely that private residential wells near the manufacturing site have been affected, and EGLE does not currently have plans to test nearby residential wells. EGLE has concluded that "all on-site contamination is venting to the Huron River; therefore, nearby residences are not impacted, and no alternate water supply is required."

**Nonetheless, residents who are concerned about PFAS contamination in their wells should contact the Washtenaw County Environmental Health Department, (734) 222-3800, [www.Washtenaw.org/1405](http://www.Washtenaw.org/1405).**

## WHAT IS THE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FROM THIS SITE?

Clearly PFAS are making their way from the groundwater to the river at levels above the state-allowed threshold of 11 parts per trillion. As of this writing, it has not been determined whether the PFAS from the former Chrysler site is affecting PFAS levels at the intake for the Ann Arbor municipal water supply at Barton Pond. It is

nonetheless true that the former Chrysler facility is on the Huron River, and that groundwater flows toward the Huron River. It is also true that the City of Ann Arbor as well as Scio's water district use water from the Huron River as part of their drinking water supply, and the water intake is located downstream approximately four miles from the site. **Approximately 2500 Scio residences get their water from the City of Ann Arbor municipal water supply.**

## EGLE IS HOLDING HEARINGS STATEWIDE ON PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR PFAS

The state of Michigan has proposed maximum drinking water contaminant levels for seven (of approximately 5000) types of PFAS. EGLE is holding hearings on these proposed standards in various locations around the state, all of which will have occurred prior to the date of publication of this newsletter.

For additional information and to monitor the status of the contaminated site, consult the Huron River Watershed Council's website ([www.hrwc.org/pfas](http://www.hrwc.org/pfas)) as well as the State of Michigan's PFAS site ([www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse)). **Please note that the National Wildlife Federation and the Huron River Watershed Council are hosting a science and policy update on PFAS on February 5, 2020, at the HRWC offices at 1100 N. Main in Ann Arbor, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.**

*According to the United Nations, water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change. The Huron River Watershed Council will give a presentation on climate change and how Scio Township is likely to be affected at the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting on February 25. The meeting will be held at Scio Township Hall, 827 North Zeeb Road, beginning at 7:00 pm.*

# PARKS AND PATHS UPDATE

## CREATING THE FUTURE OF NATURE PRESERVES, PARKS, AND PATHWAYS FOR SCIO TOWNSHIP

Over the past 15 years, teams of Scio resident-volunteers have worked together to preserve the rural character of our township and protect its natural features. Since November 2004, when Township residents first voted to fund land preservation efforts, almost 1500 acres have been protected, guided by the Land Preservation Commission (LPC). This includes six Township-owned nature preserves. **Recent efforts by the Parks Advisory Board and the Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee are moving beyond protecting lands from development toward making these nature preserves accessible to residents and making Scio itself more bike-able and walkable.**

The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) was launched in 2016 to plan for public access to the Township's preserves. The Sloan Preserve on

Baker Road was the first to open. It includes a parking area and trails leading to the Mill Creek trout stream. The PAB plans to provide access to the other nature preserves and to create a modest public park on land adjacent to Township Hall. The PAB sought input from the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living to ensure that the design of the Township Hall Park is universally accessible. Work on improvements to all our nature preserves will begin in spring 2020.

In the fall of 2017, the newly created Transportation Alternatives Planning (TAP) committee began working on a system of non-motorized pedestrian pathways to safely connect Scio residents to our nature preserves, the business district on Jackson, and neighboring communities. Building off the 2010 "Shared-Use Pathways" report, which documented strong local interest in safe and convenient pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, and inspired by the regional Border-to-Border Trail (B2B), TAP has created a new vision of a township-wide network of non-motorized pathways.

The new pathway plan, which was presented to Scio Trustees in April 2019, envisions the Zeeb Road Pathway as the "backbone," with other pathways radiating out from the center at Township Hall. **When the full plan is constructed, every Scio resident will be within one mile of the pathway system.**

The first priority is completion of the Zeeb Road Pathway from where it ends today just south of Dexter-Ann Arbor Road all the way down to and across the Huron River to connect to the B2B. The Zeeb Road path was approved in 2010, but progress has been slow due to lack of funding. The rapid construction of the B2B regional system has demonstrated the potential for quicker results: between 2018 and 2020, over twenty miles of the B2B pathway will be

BY JANE VOGEL, TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR, WILL HATHAWAY, PARKS ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR, AND ALEC JEROME, LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR

completed, including the connection to Zeeb Road at Huron River Drive. The B2B is a fantastic recreational opportunity, and inspiration, for Scio residents.

**Scio neighbors Pittsfield Township and the City of Dexter are similarly striving to create increased access to safe, non-motorized travel within their borders.** The Mill Creek Pathway built by the City of Dexter is proving popular with people of all ages and abilities. In 2018 alone there were over 300,000 user trips on the segment between Dexter and Hudson Mills Metro Park. Plans are in the works to extend the Mill Creek Pathway toward Dexter High School. Neighboring Pittsfield Township's network of pathways or "linear park spaces" is another example of communities creating safe means for pedestrian travel.

### IT IS OUR TURN NOW

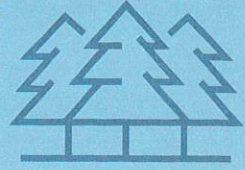
Scio residents have consistently shown strong support for open space, nature preserves, parks, and pathways. The leaders of the LPC, PAB, and TAP are working closely together to make this dream of a township-wide network of pathways and nature trails a reality. Implementing and constructing these initiatives will require further support from the citizens of Scio. A new parks and pathways millage will be necessary to generate additional funds for park and pathway development and maintenance over time. As this newsletter goes to press, work on the millage proposal is underway and we need your input. **Public input sessions regarding nature preserves, parks, and pathways will be scheduled in early 2020 at Township Hall.** The Master Plan for Scio Township is currently being updated and a survey of all residents is part of that process. We look forward to hearing from you!



Zeeb Road Pathway

## HAPPY LITTLE 5K/RUN FOR THE TREES

The Michigan DNR in partnership with Bob Ross Inc. invites everyone to join in a "virtual" 5k fundraiser to support the restoration of native Michigan ecosystems. No matter how you reach the finish line - walk, run or hike - you pick the pace and the place. Just complete the virtual 5K anywhere outdoors sometime between April 17 and 26. Your virtual race will make a real difference - all proceeds will go toward planting trees at state parks throughout Michigan. Find out more at [Michigan.gov/DNRHappyLittleTrees](http://Michigan.gov/DNRHappyLittleTrees).



## DOG GONE!

Check out [Mldoglicense.org](http://Mldoglicense.org) to apply for a dog license from the comfort of your home or local vet's office. It's quick, cheap, helps your dog find their way if lost, and the fee supports local animal shelters.



# USEFUL CONTACT INFO

## TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 369-9400  
[info@sciotownship.org](mailto:info@sciotownship.org)  
[clerk@sciotownship.org](mailto:clerk@sciotownship.org)  
website: [sciotownship.org](http://sciotownship.org)  
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am - 5 pm

## OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Jack Knowles, Supervisor - [jknowles@sciotownship.org](mailto:jknowles@sciotownship.org)  
Jessica Flintoft, Clerk - [jflintoft@sciotownship.org](mailto:jflintoft@sciotownship.org)  
Donna Palmer, Treasurer - [DEpalmer@sciotownship.org](mailto:DEpalmer@sciotownship.org)  
Christine Green, Trustee - [CGreen@sciotownship.org](mailto:CGreen@sciotownship.org)  
Kathleen P. Knol, Trustee - [kknol@sciotownship.org](mailto:kknol@sciotownship.org)  
Irwin G. Martin, Trustee - [Imartin@sciotownship.org](mailto:Imartin@sciotownship.org)  
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## THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

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## UTILITIES

**In Scio:**  
Regular business hours ..... (734) 369-9350  
After-hours emergencies: ..... (734) 651-4770  
**In Dexter:** ..... (734) 426-4572  
(with after-hours automated triage)  
**In Loch Alpine:** ..... (734) 426-4545  
(with after-hours pager number on  
answering machine)

## WASHTENAW COUNTY

**Water Resources  
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[drains@washtenaw.org](mailto:drains@washtenaw.org)  
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[maciejewskij@washtenaw.org](mailto:maciejewskij@washtenaw.org)

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

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[gwhitmer@michigan.gov](mailto:gwhitmer@michigan.gov)

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### U.S. Representatives

District 7 - Tim Walberg . . . . . (202) 225-6276  
[www.walberg.house.gov](http://www.walberg.house.gov)  
District 12 - Debbie Dingell . . . . . (202) 225-4071  
[www.debbiedingell.house.gov/contact/email](http://www.debbiedingell.house.gov/contact/email)

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Debbie Stabenow . . . . . (202) 224-4822  
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Gary Peters . . . . . (202) 224-6221  
[www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary](http://www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary)

### President of the United States

Donald J. Trump . . . . . (202) 456-1111  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

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

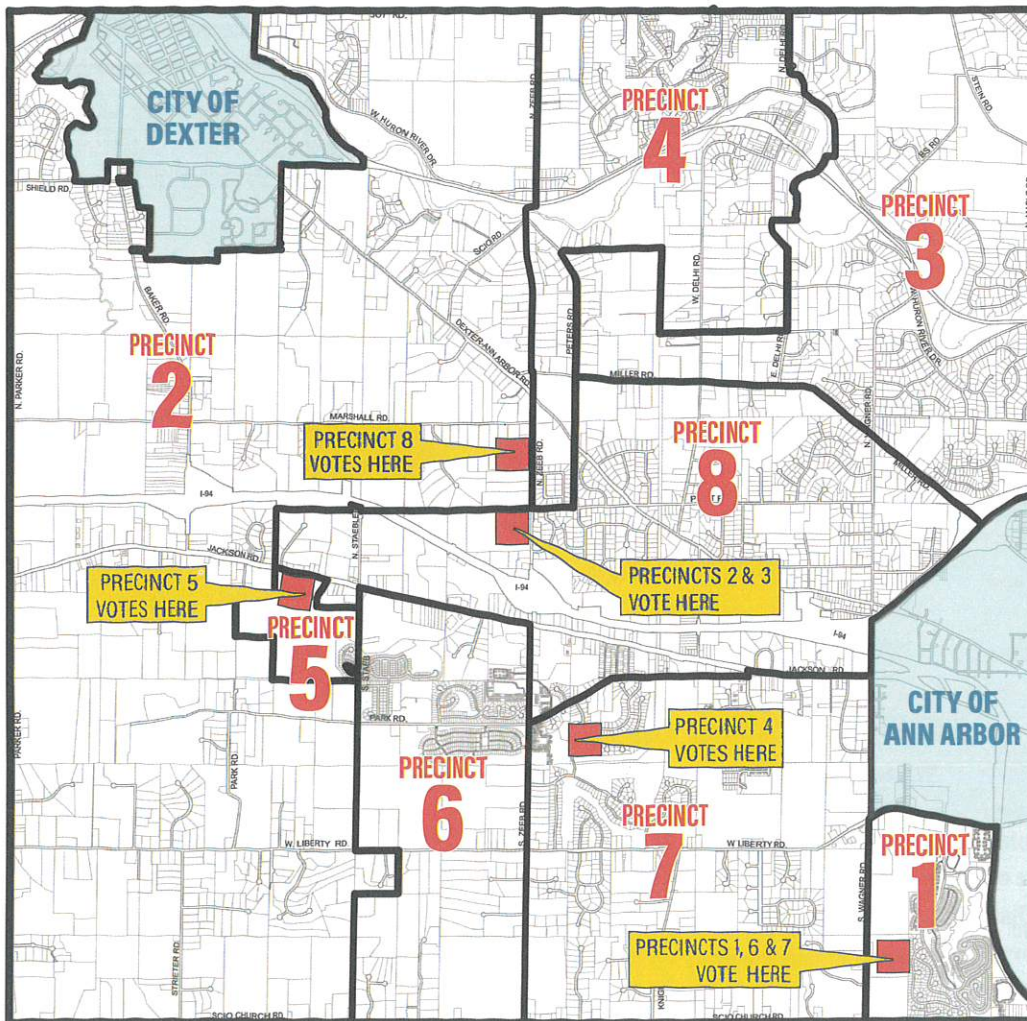
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ANN ARBOR, MI

To Scio Neighbor

# DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE? FIND YOURSELF ON THIS MAP!

## NEW PERMANENT VOTING LOCATIONS FOR PRECINCTS 4 & 6



## SCIO TOWNSHIP POLLING PLACES!

### PRECINCTS 1, 6\* & 7

WISD, 1819 S. WAGNER RD

### PRECINCTS 2 & 3

SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL  
827 N. ZEEB RD.

### PRECINCT 4\*

POLO FIELDS MAIN CLUB HOUSE  
5200 POLO FIELDS DR.

### PRECINCT 5

SCIO FARMS COMMUNITY  
CLUB HOUSE  
6655 JACKSON RD.

### PRECINCT 8

SCIO COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1293 N. ZEEB RD.

\*Note: This is a new, permanent location for this precinct's voters. All polling locations are in effect starting with the March 10 election and remain in effect for future elections.