



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

My introduction to the Scio Township Fire Department occurred on a cold, snowy night over twenty years ago. Our one-year-old daughter had a sudden seizure, something that hadn't happened before. In an instant our quiet evening transformed into a nightmare. I called 911 and described our emergency. I remember the quick arrival of the Scio firefighters. Our terrifying situation was now being responded to by calm professionals. Unlike us, they had seen these situations before. They knew what to do. Everyone was safe.

Early this year, the Board of Trustees decided to place two questions before voters in a special election this November

7: together, the two questions would authorize funding the design and construction of a second fire station, with equipment, vehicles, and staffing, as well as bringing the Zeeb Road station up to full staffing level. This ballot has two separate questions to clarify voters' choices: to fund building and purchasing property and new equipment and apparatus for new fire stations (the Capital Question), and to fund maintaining and replacing equipment and apparatus and operating costs for fire stations (the Operating Question). Both questions are "not to exceed" proposals, meaning that every year the Fire Department will request a budget

from the Board of Trustees no higher than the voted-upon limits, and a public hearing will be held for residents to weigh in on funding the requested budget before the Board directs the Assessor to create the tax roll.

Two public hearings have already been held on the proposed increase to the special assessment for fire protection at which residents sought information about the reasoning behind the Township's proposed Fire Department expansion. The rationale behind the request for increased funding lies in the findings of the Fire Services Guidance Committee, an ad hoc committee charged by the Township Board to assess the current state of fire protection and emergency services and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The committee was staffed by residents, local business owners, and Township staff. The deliberations of this committee and its report are available at sciotownship.org/FSGC.

My own view is informed by the regular reports that Chief Houde provides to the Board of Trustees. I've learned of the Fire Department's efforts to reduce the time it takes to respond to emergency calls. They have made progress, but there is no way around the fact that it takes more time to travel to the southeast corner of the Township, where about 40 percent of all

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

calls originate. In the decades since Fire Station #1 was built, Scio's population has doubled. Residential neighborhoods have sprung up on former farmland. Not surprisingly, the requests for emergency services have increased.

The Scio Fire Department's capacity is often stretched when responding to simultaneous emergencies. The severe weather situations we've faced in recent years are one example

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of such a circumstance. We are likely to face more climate-related weather situations in the future. Beyond emergency response, the Fire Department proactively inspects our commercial buildings and evaluates new construction to make sure that our buildings are safe.

Public safety is a core function of government. Scio Township wisely decided years ago to create a fire department. We are lucky to have forward thinking leadership in our Fire Department. The Board of Trustees is likewise striving to think ahead, to make sure that our emergency responders have the resources they need to protect our community. **The**

ongoing investment we make in emergency response is like an insurance policy. Each of us hopes we won't have to call 911 with a medical crisis, that our house will be free from fire, but we have a fire department so that help is ready when we need it.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

FIRE SERVICES ON THE BALLOT

This November 7, Scio Township voters will have the opportunity to authorize funding for building and staffing a second fire station. If both proposals are approved by voters, Scio Township plans to build, equip, and staff a fire station on S. Wagner Road near Liberty. The plan is to staff this station with a fire truck and a rescue vehicle, and the N. Zeeb Road station will be fully staffed with four firefighters (we currently can afford to staff only three). The S. Wagner Road station would be "first due" to about 40% of calls dispatched to us from 911 and will increase our ability to respond appropriately to many incidents, such as vehicle accidents, vehicle fires, or other fires that require more than 3 firefighters to respond. It will also allow us to begin operations immediately when we arrive at a building fire, without having to wait for our mutual-aid neighbors to arrive.

It will take 8-10 years to build a second station and fully staff it, with the authorized assessment level gradually increasing over that time. The average Scio homeowner in the Ann Arbor School District has a total annual tax obligation of about 34.5 mills (2022 winter and summer total), amounting to about \$6,900. Of that, 3.72 mills, or about \$745, stays in the Township. Of that \$745, about \$270 goes to support your Fire Department. The proposed assessments on the ballot this fall would gradually increase that amount as follows. **A homeowner with a home valued at \$400,000 will generally see increases in the amount they pay in taxes that goes to the Fire Department of approximately \$50-\$60 annually, until both stations are fully staffed (8-10 years from now).** If the new assessments are approved, the existing 1.35 mill assessment will expire. That is, the new assessment will not add to the current assessment, it will completely replace it.

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 14

Whether or not the Fire Services Improvement and Expansion proposals are approved, a public hearing will take place on November 14, at 7 pm in the Township Hall, when the Fire Chief will present the Township Board with a budget request based on reasonable and expected expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. After hearing from the public, the Township Board will authorize the level to collect, a level that will be reflected in winter tax bills issued December 1. If the ballot proposals pass this fall, this same process will be carried out annually: the Fire Chief will propose a budget based on expected needs of the Fire Department for the coming year, a public hearing will be held, and the Board of Trustees will determine the amount of the assessment.

You'll find more information in the Fire Services Improvement & Expansion Ballot Proposals special newsletter, as well as on our website at sciotownship.org/fire. We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Open House Halloween Party on Sunday, October 29, from 1 to 4 pm. But please know, visitors are always welcome at the fire station.

PUBLIC HEARING
On the Fire Department Budget
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7 pm
Scio Township Meeting Hall
827 N Zeeb Road



Fire Trucks!

Fire
Fighters!

HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

October 29th
1:00 - 4:00 PM
1055 N. Zeeb Rd.

Petting Zoo!

R.I.P.
Pony Rides!

Magic!

Games!

Face Painting!

Bounce House!

Balloons!



SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

Station Tours!

ELECTIONS UPDATE

Thanks to the passage of the Promote the Vote Act of 2022, voters will have three options to cast their vote in the November 7 Special Election to decide the Township Fire Services Improvement and Expansion questions:

1. Vote in person on Election Day
2. Vote during 9 days of early voting at Township Hall
3. Vote by absentee ballot during the 45 days prior to Election Day

For voters who prefer to cast their ballot on Election Day, November 7, six polling places will be open from 7 am to 8 pm to serve you. Voters in Precinct 2 and in Precinct 8 have been notified that their polling place has been changed for this election only: Precinct 2 voters will vote at the Kiwanis Club; Precinct 8 voters will vote at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. The Township consolidated precincts and polling places in order to reduce the cost of administering this special election. Here is a complete list of our precincts and polling places for the November 7 election:

PRECINCT 1

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 S Wagner Rd

PRECINCTS 2 & 4

Kiwanis Club, 100 N Staebler Rd, Ste C

PRECINCTS 3 & 8

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 S Wagner Rd

PRECINCT 5

Scio Farms Community Club House,
6655 Jackson Rd

PRECINCT 6

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 S Wagner Rd

PRECINCT 7

Polo Fields Main Club House,
5200 Polo Fields Dr

If you are not sure which precinct is yours, look it up at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://michigan.gov/Vote), or call the Clerk's Office at 734-369-9400.

Changes are coming for voters who prefer to vote via absentee ballot. Starting with the application to vote mailed to the 8,000 voters on our Permanent Absent Voter List this September, voters will have the opportunity to sign up to automatically receive their ballot before every election. Previously, only applications to vote were available; now, eligible voters will no longer need to apply before every election but will automatically receive a ballot at the address they designate. Clearly, it is imperative that voters keep the Clerk's Office apprised where they need to have their ballot sent.

Signature verification remains an important part of absentee ballot processing. So if you recognize that your signature has changed over time, stop in at the Clerk's Office, 827 N Zeeb Road, with photo ID and put your new signature on file. If you cannot come to Township Hall, please call 734-369-9400 for accommodation. As always, we will use every means available to us to contact voters whose ballot signature does not match their voter registration. If you prefer to vote via absent voter ballot, it's a good idea to have your email and/or a phone number on file with your voter registration to facilitate curing any signature discrepancies that may occur. This can be done with your application to vote. (Note: the email addresses and phone numbers of registered voters are not subject to FOIA.)

Finally, the November 7 Special Election will inaugurate the Early Voting process

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

authorized by last year's Promote the Vote amendment to the Michigan Constitution. Early voting will be available from Saturday, October 28 to Sunday, November 5, from 8 am to 4 pm daily (including weekends) in the Meeting Hall at Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Road. Registered voters from all precincts are welcome to show up with photo ID and cast their ballot just as though it were Election Day. A Voter Access Terminal for voters with disabilities will be available throughout the Early Voting period. And as we do on every election day, we will have fully trained poll workers from both major parties staffing the Early Voting Site. Final results will include early voted ballots, absent voter ballots, and those cast at the polls on Election Day.

It's an exciting time to be a voter in Scio Township, with changes and improvements to the process evident in every "style" of voting the voter chooses. As always, residents can register to vote up until 8 pm on Election Day at the Clerk's Office in Township Hall.

POLLING PLACE CHANGES FOR THIS ELECTION ONLY:

Precinct 2 polling place is the Kiwanis Club, 100 N Staebler Rd, Ste C

Precinct 8 polling place is the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, 1819 S Wagner Rd

EARLY VOTING
OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 5
8 AM - 4 PM
SCIO TOWNSHIP MEETING HALL
827 N ZEEB ROAD

CLERK'S COLUMN

RUN FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Next year, Scio Township voters will elect a Township Clerk, Supervisor, Treasurer, and four Trustees to serve from 2024 to 2028. All seven offices will appear first on the August 6, 2024 State Primary Election ballot, and finally on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot. All seven elected Township officials then take office on November 20, 2024, at noon.

I'm encouraging all qualified residents to run for a Township office in 2024. Our Township is best served by elected officials who reflect the diversity of Scio's residents, who act ethically, and who are committed to public service. Is this you? I've come to understand that many qualified people don't run for office simply because they don't know how.

All Township offices are partisan, meaning that the major political parties (currently Democratic and Republican parties) nominate candidates. These party nominations are made through the State Primary Election held in August. To

become a Democratic or Republican candidate for Township office, qualified residents must submit a Nominating Petition with 20 to 50 signatures of registered electors and an Affidavit of Identity. (A filing fee of \$100 is acceptable in lieu of petition signatures.) **Candidates seeking to be the Democratic or Republican nominee for Township office must submit all required forms to the Township Clerk before 4:00 pm, Tuesday, April 23, 2024.**

Provided all information submitted is valid and qualifying, these names then appear as Democratic or Republican candidates for Township Offices on the August 6, 2024 Primary ballot.

Candidates who do not have a political affiliation may still run for these partisan Township offices. Such candidates should file a Qualifying Petition with 60 to 150 signatures of registered electors and an Affidavit of Identity. **Candidates without political affiliation must submit all required forms to the Township Clerk before 4:00 pm, Thursday, July 18, 2024.**

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

Voters will select the Republican and Democratic nominees for seven Township offices through the August 6, 2024 State Primary election. The selected nominees will then appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot along with any qualified candidates without political affiliation. Voters will then elect their Township officials from these choices.

We have Nominating Petitions, Qualifying Petitions, and Affidavits of Identity forms available at the Township Clerk's Office in Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Road, and are happy to review the requirements with anyone who is interested. To stay up to date on who has filed to run for Township office or other offices within Washtenaw County, visit Washtenaw.org/304/elections for the list maintained by the Washtenaw County Clerk.

FROM THE UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Scio Township conducts annual fire hydrant flushing in the Fall. Hydrant flushing is part of the Township's annual maintenance and is performed to remove minerals and sediment that accumulate in the water lines over the course of a year. On occasion, the water in your home or business may have an orange or rusty appearance for about an hour in the aftermath of a hydrant flushed near your home. The water is safe to use and drink but it can cause staining of laundry if the discoloration is not first cleared from the lines. (If this occurs, products such as RoVer Rust Remover can help remove temporary laundry discoloration.) The water discoloration is caused by iron sediment

BY STEVE WYZGOSKI,
UTILITIES DIRECTOR

in the water main being disturbed by the hydrant flushing.

If discoloration occurs, please run your COLD water for several minutes and flush your toilet to clear the lines. Do not run hot or warm water as this forces the discolored water into your water heater, mixing with the stored clear water. If you do get rusty water in your hot water tank, it may be necessary to drain the hot water tank per manufacturer's instructions to remove the sediment.



EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

It's fall, and before summer is completely overshadowed by the joys of a cooler, more brightly colored season, consider taking a moment to examine the significance of the extreme weather events we experienced this summer that resulted in power outages, floods, and days when the smoke from wildfires in Canada saw many return to wearing N95 masks. This fall is a good time to move beyond recognizing that the climate is changing/has changed and begin to take what actions are available to you to do your part to mitigate the effects of climate change. Visit sciotownship.org/sustainability and check out the resources made available to site visitors in seven areas of interest, from agriculture to energy, from water to transportation. Armed with this information it's easy to get started on the path to carbon neutrality and sustainability.

NEWS FROM THE ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The summer is a busy season for road work so the fall is a perfect time for a roads update.

At the May 9 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board voted to return surplus funds from the 2013 Township-wide Special Assessment for Roads, which ended in 2023. Our Assessor, Andrea Garrett, has been busy calculating the amount of refund each parcel will receive, which will be reflected as a credit on your Winter Tax bill, coming in December. At the same meeting, the Board voted to use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for maintenance/improvements on some connector roads, to replace funding from the expired Township-wide Special Assessment. The Board asked the Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) to

make plans to fund future road maintenance/improvement. **Expect to see road funding on the ballot in 2024. RAC will also be seeking grant funding for roads, culverts, and other improvements.** Scio is in the process of hiring more finance staff and this should give us the ability to submit grant applications. The Roads Advisory Committee itself is working on policies and procedures, especially for Special Assessment Districts for roads and other improvements.

Speaking of road maintenance/improvements, if you have a "bald spot" in front of your property or along the roads you travel, and if the road has recently been worked on, rest assured the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) will be back out to re-seed the grass. This is a temporary inconvenience for long-term benefit and your patience is appreciated.

Scio Township is growing, with new housing developments and increasing population. It is more important than ever that the Board of Trustees, with the help of the Roads Advisory Committee, get serious about the Township's transportation needs and plan accordingly. We are in the beginning stages of communications with WCRC, SEMCOG (South East Michigan Council of Governments) and will be connecting

BY JILLIAN KERRY, TRUSTEE AND CHAIR,
ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

with WATS (Washtenaw Area Transportation Study) for expert advice and insights. This is a much needed and ongoing process.

Scio and WCRC are in agreement, communication with residents could be better. We are committed to creating a better system to inform and engage. **If you are interested in local roads and transportation issues, or if you are aware of a problem in your area, here are some ways to get informed,** or to bring your issues to the attention of the Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) and/or the County Road Commission (WCRC).

- For RAC updates, access meeting records at sciotownship.org/roadsadvisorycommittee
- Sign up for the WCRC weekly road schedule and other informative emails, wcroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates/
- Report roads issues by emailing the Roads Advisory Committee at RAC@sciotownship.org, or contacting WCRC wcroads.org/residents/report-an-issue/

I, the Board of Trustees, and the Roads Advisory Committee are committed to working on behalf of you and your safety while traveling within our community!

HELP IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY

Washtenaw Alerts is a service offered by Washtenaw County that enables the public to get notification of an array of emergency situations quickly and easily. Go to Washtenaw.org/alerts to learn more and sign up to be notified of incidents where rapid and accurate information is essential to life safety, including severe weather, drinking water contamination, evacuation or shelter-in-place notices, missing persons, fires or floods, bomb threats, hostage situations, and chemical spills or gas leaks. You can also sign up for traffic advisories or other general community alerts such as crime bulletins. Users are asked to create a free account and decide what type of alerts they want sent right to their phones via text. If you are already signed up for Nixle alerts, you are encouraged to register with Washtenaw Alert (which uses the national Everbridge network) as Washtenaw County no longer issues Nixle alerts.

SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the average American family uses 300 gallons of water per day. The biggest spenders in this area are the bathtub, the toilet, the washing machine, and the dishwasher, all appliances that can benefit from improved efficiency. Check out the EPA's WaterSense page to find products that meet your needs and reduce your water bill, at LookForWaterSense.EPA.gov. For example, replacing an inefficient toilet with a WaterSense model can save 13,000 gallons of water per year! Next time you wonder why your water bill is so high, take a look at your ageing appliances and see how you can make the next one better.

How Much Water Do We Use?



Source: Water Research Foundation, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2, 2016

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIO TOWNSHIP

In 1979, the Michigan Legislature amended state zoning laws to allow municipalities to approve a new form of zoning, Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). Compared to traditional zoning, where permitted uses are designated as different zones (e.g. residential, industrial, commercial, office, etc.), PUDs offer flexibility in parcel sizes and uses and often focus on the integration of natural features such as ponds, wetlands, streams, and open space into the development of the site.

Decades ago, Scio Township added regulations to its zoning ordinance to allow, and regulate, PUDs. A PUD must provide a recognizable and material benefit to the ultimate users of the project and to the community, or it must protect and preserve natural resources of a quantity or quality that would otherwise be unfeasible or unlikely to be achieved without the application of the PUD regulations. Typically, there are elements of both associated with a PUD. **Scio's PUD ordinance requires a development to have at least 30% of the land area devoted to open space**, which must remain in a natural state or be restricted for outdoor recreational purposes. Pedestrian and bicycle access to, between, and through all open space areas is encouraged.

Unlike most forms of zoning, which are "by right" (meaning that if a proposed development conforms with the zoning regulations for that

district, it will be approved),

PUDs are discretionary. The process for having land rezoned to PUD starts with a concept review meeting with the zoning administrator, a member of the Planning Commission, and staff or consultants as necessary. Additional meetings may be required prior to the submission of an application. The Preliminary PUD Plan Application includes scale drawings of the parcel and proposed structures, a narrative description of the project and how it meets the objectives of Scio Township's PUD ordinance, and a statement from a professional engineer regarding access to water and sewer, and how it will handle storm water.

The Planning Commission (PC) is charged with reviewing the Preliminary PUD plan and holding a public hearing, then recommending the approval, denial, or approval-with-conditions to the Board of Trustees. The PC must apply the standards set forth in the PUD ordinance. The Board of Trustees must then review the plan and make similar findings using the same criteria in order to approve the Preliminary PUD.

The applicant then submits a Final PUD plan that contains several additional documents, including architectural drawings, a detailed site plan, and the proposed phases and timelines for the development. The review and approval process, which includes another

BY JOHN REISER, TRUSTEE AND MEMBER OF
THE PLANNING COMMISSION

public hearing, is repeated by the Board of Trustees. If the Final PUD plan and rezoning of the site are approved, the proposed use of the land will be permitted. The applicant must then record an affidavit with the Washtenaw County Register of Deeds that contains the legal description of the property, the open space to be preserved, and any conditions imposed by the Planning Commission or Board of Trustees.

If a developer wants to modify an approved PUD plan, the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees both have to review the proposed changes and, if deemed to be major, then review, public hearings, and approval by both bodies are again required.

One of the more vexing aspects of reviewing a PUD application is ascertaining whether the proposed public benefits are appropriate to the development or are of sufficient quantity. The Planning Commission, and ultimately the Board of Trustees, must put flesh to the bones of the requirement that a PUD provide a "recognizable and material benefit." That is, will the PUD serve the community as well as the developer? Residents are encouraged to provide input during the required public hearings to help ensure that the review and oversight provided by the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees adequately serves Scio Township.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Where did it go? Summer is over! The due date, September 14, for paying your summer tax bill, is soon, or may have already passed, depending on when you read this. (Add 1 percent to the total in interest if you haven't yet paid your summer taxes.)

Things are going well in the Treasurer's area. I am fortunate to have excellent staff. They are very particular and do their part very well. I could not meet my responsibility without them.

We are still seeing great returns on the Township's investments. Our representatives work in the public funds area for their

BY DONNA E. PALMER, TREASURER

institutions and know the statutory regulations and the types of investment we are allowed to use with public monies. We are strictly regulated (because it's not our money).

Enjoy your fall in our beautiful state, and Happy Halloween!

BIRD RESEARCH AT WEST SCIO PRESERVE

BY ANNA CONE, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, PRESERVES, AND PATHWAYS

Nestled at the south end of Dino Drive off Jackson Road, West Scio Preserve spans 217 acres and offers a tranquil escape. The property boasts a small parking lot, a kiosk with maps and educational information, and rustic walking paths. During a visit to West Scio Preserve you might hear the rhythmic drumming of a woodpecker among the trees, or perhaps the call of a great blue heron passing overhead. **This property is incredibly ecologically diverse**, with Southern Hardwood Swamp, Dry-Mesic Southern Forest, Old Field, and Wet Prairie habitats (see map).

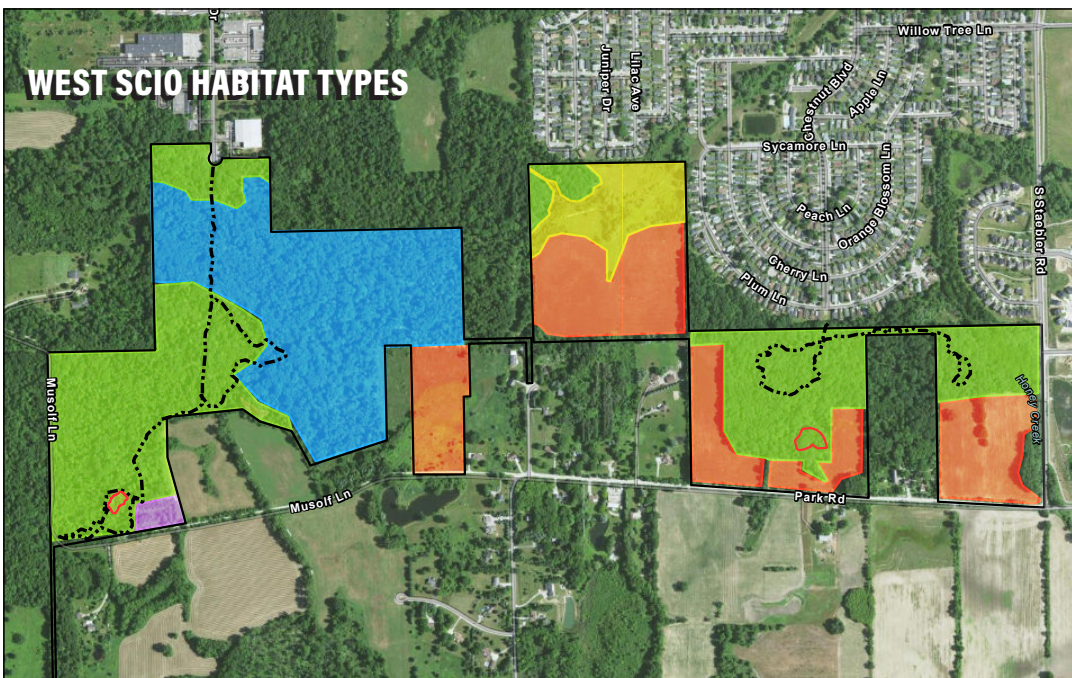
Over the summer, two highly motivated Natural Resource Management Interns, Ella Hook and Bria Sheffer, diligently surveyed West Scio Preserve for both breeding bird evidence

and invasive plant species populations. Their comprehensive final report, along with an easily accessible presentation recording, is available at SciOTownship.Org/ParksReports.

To offer a glimpse into their findings: This summer, 64 bird species were found in West Scio Preserve, 16 more species than were found during the research conducted in the summer of 2021. We can attribute much of this increase to further land acquisition. Of the 16 new species, 10 were recorded in parcels acquired by the Land Preservation Commission and added to the West Scio Preserve since the last study was conducted.

When interpreting data from a breeding bird survey, a large emphasis rests on indicator

species. **These are species whose absence, presence, or abundance offers insights into an ecosystem's health.** In West Scio, evidence of species such as yellow-throated vireo, scarlet tanager, and wood-thrush are taken as indicators of a robust, extensive forest habitat. As they make their migration from the warmth of South and Central America looking for a large forest full of food to raise their young each year, they choose West Scio Preserve, indicating that the protection and preservation of this special forest has succeeded in providing a home to these beautiful creatures.



8/18/2023

Trails Habitat Types

--- Dirt

Hardwood swamp

Old field

Dry-mesic southern forest

Wet Prairie

Other

1:13,132

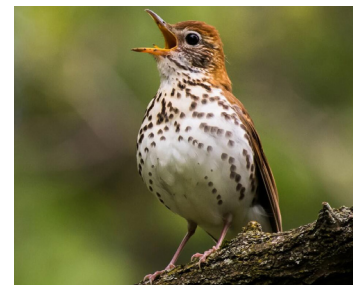
0 0.07 0.15 0.3 mi

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 km

East Community Maps Contributors, Province of Ontario, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METINASA, USGS, EPA, NPS.



Scarlet Tanager



Wood Thrush



Yellow-throated Vireo



A WORD FROM OUR MANAGER

BY JOYCE PARKER, MANAGER

There are several changes taking place in the Township related to the overall administration. Two of our colleagues, Steve Wyzgoski, our Utilities Director, and Howard Loughry, our Building Maintenance Manager, are both retiring. Steve has been with Scio Township for three years and plans to retire to spend more time with his family. Howard has been with the Township for 23 years and has responsibility for maintenance and grounds. They are well respected by all. It has been a pleasure working with Steve and Howard during my tenure with the Township. While they each asked us not to make a fuss over their departures, we certainly wish them both the best! The position of Utilities Director is currently being advertised. Visit sciotownship.org/teamscio for qualifications and information on how to apply.

Another change that is taking place within the administration is bringing code enforcement in-house. For years, the function has been handled through our planning consultant, Carlisle-Wortman. The person handling the duties through their office is retiring as well so the Township is seeking a part-time person to take on this function and work closely with the community to address any issues associated with violations of local or state codes.

Ordinance and code violation enforcement is important as part of a community's effort to positively promote quality of life issues and support residents and businesses within the Township. The position will conduct on-site inspections throughout the Township to determine compliance with local codes, ordinances, and standards pertaining to health, welfare, and safety.

Residents are encouraged to consider both opportunities. Please submit cover letter, resume, and four professional references by email to jparker@sciotownship.org. Scio Township is an equal opportunity employer.

Lastly, I am pleased to share with you that Scio Township has retained an outstanding firm to provide finance director services on an interim basis. The Township has been without a professional firm to handle its finances for years and has been short-staffed. This contract will allow the Township to get its practices, procedures, and training in place to operate in an efficient manner. Once our house is in order, we will proceed with permanently filling the Finance Director position.

ROADS UPDATE

BY TIFFANY OLIPHANT, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Orange barrel season is coming to an end in Scio Township. The Washtenaw County Road Commission finished a culvert replacement project on Parker Road between Shield Road and Dexter-Chelsea Road. WCRC also completed quite a few local road projects primarily funded by Scio Township. These projects included drainage improvements and limestone resurfacing on Park, Peters, Pratt, Scio Road, and W. Delhi (south of Dexter-Ann Arbor Road to I-94). The Township also contributed to crack sealing and surface sealing treatment in numerous subdivisions. 2023 was a busy construction season in Scio Township!

WCRC plans to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Miller and Zeeb roads during the 2024 construction season. For more information on WCRC projects, sign up for project updates: wccroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates/

Soon, WCRC will be preparing for the winter season with its annual "dry run," which allows the operations team to check equipment, snow routes, and provide drivers with safety talks before the season. And the WCRC Paint-A-Plow program has kicked into high gear. This year's theme is "The Seasons of Washtenaw County." The Paint-a-Plow Program is a way for local students to showcase their artistic talent and learn about the services WCRC provides to the community. The painted plows are used by WCRC throughout the winter and may be used at events within the school's community depending on availability. It is always exciting to see the creative artwork by these young artists.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT WCRC

The organization recently announced the retirement of Managing Director Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, effective December 27, 2023. Siddall has served as managing director of WCRC since 2018 and will be remembered as a champion of the county-wide road and non-

motorized millage, which voters passed in 2016. Matthew F. MacDonell, currently the Director of Engineering at WCRC, has been named as her replacement. The two have worked together for nearly 20 years. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners credits Siddall and MacDonell with fostering strong working relationships with township partners, helping provide a high-quality road system that is safe for the traveling public.

IF YOU HAVE A ROAD CONCERN OR QUESTION, THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO REPORT IT TO WCRC:

- Visit online: wccroads.org/residents/report-an-issue/
- Download the WCRC Fix It App
- Email wccrc@wccroads.org
- Call the WCRC office: (734) 761-1500, Monday – Friday, 7 am – 3:30 pm

First Annual **SUSTAINABILITY FAIR**

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29
1 - 4 PM**

Discover

Try an e-bike, see a worm composting tower at work, learn how to electrify and improve the efficiency of your home

Connect

Learn about native plants, rain barrels, and protecting our watershed

Engage

Free demonstrations, discussions with experts, and activities for children and adults



Scio Township Hall

827 N Zeeb Road

Utility Bay (around back)

Same Day! Visit the **Halloween Party** at the Fire Station and **vote early** at Township Hall

WELCOME SARA MCCLEERY!

This summer, the Scio Township Assessing Department gratefully welcomed Sara McCleery to its staff. Sara is a residential assessor, conducting final inspections for new housing, analyzing sales to update Township records, and conducting state-mandated in-person visits of residential properties (at least 20 percent must be visited every year per state mandate).

"We are very grateful that Sara has decided to join our team," says Assessor Andrea Garrett, and "we are looking forward to teaching her many things—she's a quick learner!"

Sara notes that there isn't usually a table for assessors at your average college Job Fair so, like many others, Sara heard about the possibilities inherent in this career through word of mouth. In this case, a couple of mouths close to home, since both her father and her



brother are assessors! And though Sara studied literature and communications in college, she

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

describes herself as very much a numbers person, so she decided to give it a try. That was three years ago. **Sara now has a Level 2 certification and is planning to take the Level 3 class as soon as next year.** She enjoys the variety of work she has been tasked with here in Scio, especially field work, reading up on new laws and new problems, and how the work varies seasonally. "The deeper you go in this field, the more interesting it gets," she observed.

Sara helps out at the front desk in Township Hall if you have a question about filling out your PRE (Principle Residence Exemption) or Property Transfer forms, or if you want to know how the taxable value on your home was calculated. Thank you Sara, for joining Team Scio!

OK2SAY

Not all heroes wear a cape and tights. If you see or hear something that threatens student or school safety, submit a confidential tip to OK2SAY. Anyone can report tips confidentially on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone: 855-565-2729, text: 652729, email: OK2SAY@mi.gov.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

TAX CREDIT

Unspent funds from the 2013 Township-Wide Road Special Assessment District will be allocated to property owners as a credit on their winter tax bills. Look for your winter tax bill in December, with a due date of February 14, 2024.

MI RIGHT TO READ

The Michigan Library Association has launched a campaign called MI Right to Read (MIRighttoRead.com). The coalition opposes any attempts to ban books from Michigan libraries based on content subjectively deemed inappropriate. Its purpose is to educate the public and oppose any legislation that infringes upon First Amendment rights and intellectual freedom. The site offers opportunities to support libraries and librarians by providing updates on book battles and recommending actions, such as posting on social media, writing letters to local media, and attending school and library board meetings.





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

To Scio Neighbor

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 4 pm

info@sciotownship.org
clerk@sciotownship.org
newsletter@sciotownship.org
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UTILITIES

In Scio:

8 am – 4 pm (734) 369-9350
After hours..... (734) 651-4770

In Dexter:..... (734) 426-4572
(with after-hours automated triage)

In Loch Alpine:

Water or sewer emergencies. . . (248) 433-8904
Non-emergencies (517) 715-9739
Account Management/Billing
(office hours M-F, 5-8 p.m) ... (734) 433-0835

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1055 North Zeeb Road
For emergencies 911
Business line..... (734) 665-6001
Fire@sciotownship.org

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County Water Resources

Commissioner (734) 222-6860
drains@ewashtenaw.org

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

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peters.senate.gov

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whitehouse.gov