

Scio Township

Fall 2010

COMMUNITY REPORT

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Scio Township Fire Department's

Annual Halloween Party

Sunday October 31 2 - 4 p.m.

Kids, come in costume and bring your parents! Sit in the new fire trucks!

Refreshments Games Prizes

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

Township Updates

Public Safety

As noted in the prior newsletter, the Fire Department has acquired a Tahoe that will now serve as the primary response vehicle to all non-fire incidents, thus saving the wear and tear on the larger fire engine. Also, a new fire engine, constructed to the Township's specifications, has now been delivered and placed in service, replacing an

existing and aging fire engine. Plan to attend our annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to see the lat-



est additions to our fleet. Informal discussions continue with representatives of the three municipalities which participate in the Dexter Area-wide Fire Department, with the long term goal of investigating a possible consolidation of services between Scio and the DAFD and reviewing the potential benefits which might be expected to flow from such a consolidation. Many issues have been addressed and discussed; however, we still have a ways to go and a number of issues to resolve.

Local Roads Update

As has been discussed in recent newsletters, because of the Washtenaw County Road Commission's lack of road

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

PUBLIC TRANSIT IN SCIO TOWNSHIP BY MICHAELNE PAWLAK, WAVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAVE Transportation Options

Did you know that several Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) transportation programs operate in Scio Township? WAVE programs include:

The Community Connector Program is an inter-urban express bus program that picks up riders at pre-arranged locations. It travels between Chelsea, Dexter and Ann Arbor (Jackson/Wagner Road) where riders can connect to AATA's #9 bus route.

The Scio Township Connector Program picks up riders at Sunward, Great Oaks and Lakestone housing communities. This bus makes it possible for riders to travel along the Community Connector bus route. The Scio Township Connector Program is fully subsidized by Scio Township.

The Chelsea Community Ride Program is a free shuttle bus program subsidized by WAVE and the Chelsea Retirement Community. It operates four hours per day, Monday through Saturday. Scio Township residents can access this free shuttle by first traveling into Chelsea on the Community Connector bus. The shuttle travels through the heart of Chelsea's M52/Main Street shopping district.

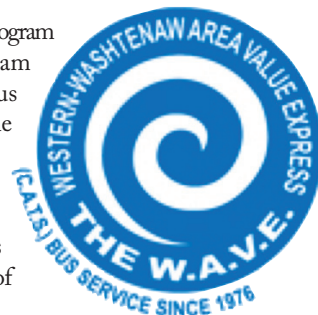
The Dexter Door-to-Door Program is a reserved ride program that travels from a rider's door to locations within the Dexter School District. Dexter School District residents are eligible to reserve rides on the door-to-door bus.

The WAVE Transfer Bus Program is a reserved ride program that offers a 'transfer' bus ride from your door to the Community Connector route. This bus allows access to the Community Connector if a rider lives beyond walking distance of identified bus stops.

The LifeLine Services Van Program is a reserved ride program that travels from a rider's door to anywhere within Washtenaw County. Riders within the Dexter School District are eligible for this service with reservation upon van availability.

For more information or to reserve a ride, call WAVE Dispatch at (734) 475-9494 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. Visit WAVE's website for complete program, fare and scheduling information at www.ridethewavebus.org.

Some Township residents may qualify for the Dollar to Ride program offered by People's Express through a Community Block Grant. Go to their website for more information: www.peoplesexpressmi.com/services.html.



**Scio Township
will have grown
approximately
21% over
the past ten years,
resulting in the
addition of some
2,840 residents.**



From The Supervisor's Desk continued from page 1

maintenance funds, the homeowners in several Township subdivisions have funded their own improvements. That is likely to continue to be the case until the state either addresses the road funding issue by raising the gas tax or changes the laws to allow local communities to find their own funding mechanisms. Thus, Scio Hills Subdivision just completed a repaving of their subdivision roads and Arbor Pointe Subdivision is in the process of completing half of their road refurbishment project this year. The Road Commission has completed a great deal of work in Scio this past summer, including chip sealing of a number of major roads, repaving portions of Miller Road, and completing a significant portion of the work needed on Huron River Drive. A great debt of gratitude is due to those people and groups who contributed to additional repaving of Huron River Drive between Wagner and Tubbs. Ted and Debbie Green were organizers of the Huron River Drive repaving and their company, Greenview Data, was a major donor to the project. And thanks also go out to the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, through Doug Tidd as its President, whose members contributed a very significant amount of money toward these particular road improvements. Scio's Local Roads Committee has been a very active participant in looking for ways to achieve road improvements absent state or county money, and has been of great assistance to various homeowners in their efforts to improve their own roads.

Two court cases resolved

On the legal scene, the Michigan Supreme Court recently issued an order effectively terminating a lawsuit that had been brought against the Township in the case of Lubinski v. Scio Township. The developer had sought to develop land at a residential density which exceeded the Township's ordinance requirements, and the decision of the Supreme Court effectively affirmed the application of the Township's zoning ordinance and affirmed the density restrictions contained therein. In other litigation dating back to 1996, the Township has finally prevailed in terminating a nonconforming use in the case of Scio Township v. Bateson, closing a soils and landscape business operating in an agricultural district that disturbed nearby residents for many years. This was probably the longest running and most protracted litigation in which I have ever been involved and I am happy to see its conclusion.

Our area is growing

Finally, communities across Michigan are awaiting the results of the recent US Census. SEMCOG predicts that Scio Township (not including Dexter Village) will have grown approximately 21% over the past ten years, resulting in the addition of some 2,840 residents. SEMCOG has predicted that Dexter Village will have grown by 50%, or some 1,180 residents. Despite a recent setback, the Village continues on the path to cityhood, and assuming success, will no longer be a component part of Scio, but will be a municipal entity (city) of its own.

LPC UPDATE BY BARRY LONIK, LAND PROTECTION CONSULTANT

Scio Completes 10th Land Protection Project

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program closed on its tenth project on September 28th, protecting the southwestern corner of the Township. The newly protected parcel is the northeast corner of the intersection of Scio Church Rd. and Parker Rd. Many of you may be familiar with that particular four-way stop intersection. Each of the four corners is in a different township (clockwise: Scio, Lodi, Freedom and Lima) and three of the four corners are wetlands well known as

habitat for migrating and breeding birds. Two of those four corners are now protected (the southwestern corner in Freedom Township being the other). The Scio property is owned by the Rubena Schneider Trust. Mrs. Schneider and her late husband, Norwin, purchased the property from Norwin's family in 1942. Initially they raised milk cows, switched to feeding steers and finally to field crops. Mrs. Schneider lived in the house on Scio Church Rd. (now in separate

ownership) until 1997. The property is 50.7 acres in size and also features prime agricultural soils and other wildlife habitat. It is the fourth project with Parker Rd. frontage in Scio Township (there is also one easement bordering Parker Rd. in Lima Township).

The USDA assisted with the purchase

The Township purchased a conservation easement on the Schneider property, allowing for agricultural use while protecting its natural resources. The project was assisted by a grant of \$133,670 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. Scio Township's land preservation millage contributed \$183,130. The Trust donated 10% of the appraised value so the Township's share of the purchase price was 51%.

A view preserved

As is usually the case with agricultural conservation easements, there is no public access on the Schneider property. Nevertheless, protecting its scenic, natural and agricultural resources are of tremendous benefit to the Scio Township community. The Scio Township Board of Trustees and Land Preservation Commission are enormously grateful to Mrs. Schneider for her commitment to keeping her land undeveloped and productive forever.

**...protecting its
scenic, natural
and agricultural
resources are of
tremendous
benefit to the
Scio Township
community**



A Note from The Treasurer's Desk

Remember to
notify us
if you go away
for the
winter
months.

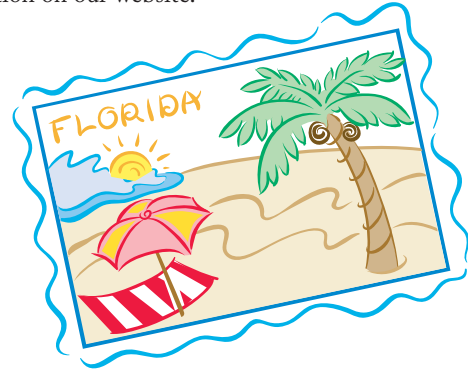
The due date has passed for 2010 summer taxes. If you think you should have received a bill but did not, please call the Township office and let us check your records.

Remember to keep your records updated

Shortly we will begin to prepare the tax roll for the December billing season. I once again thank everyone for helping us keep our billing records correct. The number of returned bills has been greatly reduced. Remember to notify us if you go away for the winter months. Forwarding orders to the post office do not send your bills through. They are returned to us and we must re-mail. Knowing in advance saves time and money.

Check our website

A few requests have been made to consider credit card payments. We are looking into this option and may have it available by the end of the year. Watch for further information on our website.



CLERK'S CORNER BY NANCY HEDBERG, CLERK

November is election time again!

Don't
forget to
VOTE
November 2

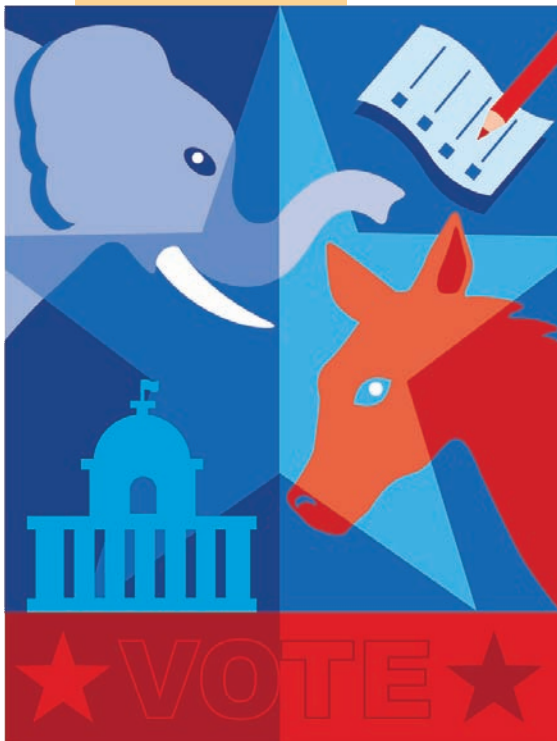
We're back to our regular polling places in November—all except for Precinct 8, which has been moved back to Scio Community Church, 1293 North Zeeb Road. This is my precinct, too, so I know the complaints: "Why do you keep moving us around?" or "I never know where to vote!". This cost saving move was necessary because the Washtenaw County Road Commission was going to start charging us to use their space. Our polling place was at the Community Church several years ago along with Precinct 4. There is enough room at the church to enable us to handle two precincts easily at this location. Those of you in Precinct 8 will be receiving a new voter's ID that will indicate the new polling location and address. For a complete Precinct map, go to: <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/about> and click on "Voting Locations".

Our Poll Book goes digital

If you voted in the August Primary, you will have noted that we have a new 'station'—the electronic poll book. Through a HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Grant, we were able to receive a laptop computer for each precinct. The program on the computer has the list of voters in each individual precinct. Along with the laptop, we acquired a reader similar to those in use at many businesses. This reader will allow us to swipe your picture ID (usually a driver's license), retrieve your information from the 14,000+ registered Township voters, and verify your voting status. Valid forms of ID are: Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal ID card, driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state, Federal or state government-issued photo ID, U.S. Passport, current student ID w/ photo from high school or accredited institution of higher education, military ID card w/ photo, or tribal ID card w/ photo. Note: the reader may not be able to process all of the above forms of ID. We hope that as election workers become accustomed to using this equipment, it will speed things along on Election Day.

It's a long day

Please be sure to thank your election workers as you go through the line on Election Day. It is a very long day, starting at 6:00 a.m. and lasting until 10:00 p.m. (or longer) with small pay. Every one of them works hard to be sure that you have the opportunity to have a vote in how our government serves us. Last day to register before the November 2nd General Election was October 4, 2010. To check your status, go to: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>



Changes To Scio Tree and Woodland Resource Preservation Ordinance

To protect trees and woodlands ... for their natural beauty, character, and ecological or historical significance.

Here is a brief overview of how Section 36-346 of Code of Ordinances of the Township of Scio was changed in March 2010. There were several very minor changes, mainly to improve the clarity of Section 36-346. The only substantive change was to separate "timbering and forestry operations" from farming operations and to add the timbering and forestry operations to the list of exemptions that are not subject to this section. Timbering and forestry operations are exempt as long as the operations are "conducted in compliance with an approved Woodland Stewardship Plan that has been filed with the Township Zoning Administrator prior to the start of any tree harvesting on the parcel." Our intent was to clarify timbering operations as activities defined and governed under the Right to Forest Act and the requirements of the State of Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program. The Woodland Stewardship Plan is defined in the ordinance as follows:

A written document listing activities that enhance or improve woodland resources (wildlife, timber, soil, water, recreation and aesthetics) on private land over a five-year period. All Woodland Stewardship Plans must be prepared by a qualified

forester or a conservation district forester...Contents [of the plan] must meet the requirements for plans by the State of Michigan's Forest Stewardship Program.

The addition of the idea of woodland stewardship further strengthens the stated purposes of Section 36-346, specifically purpose B3: "To protect trees and woodlands (including woodland resources) for their economic support of local property values when allowed to remain uncleared and/or unharvested in whole or in significant part, and for their natural beauty, character, and ecological or historical significance." The section can be seen in its entirety on the Township website. If you have any questions please call the Township at 369-9400.

feet east of Baker, has been rezoned from Agriculture (A-1) to Composite Commercial (C-4). Tractor Supply Co. received site plan approval and construction of the new store has begun. Tractor Supply will build a 20,000 s.f. building with an ancillary, fenced and landscaped side-yard outdoor sales area. Full landscaping of both the front- and side-yard areas will provide the "green" setting we have come to enjoy along Jackson Boulevard.

Running Fit Expansion

The local sporting goods retailer, Running Fit, is approved for an expansion of their store at 5700 Jackson Road and construction has begun. The 4,980 s.f. addition to the existing building will be used primarily for storage which will consolidate their operations into one location. Other improvements to the site, such as parking and landscaping, will update the site to be consistent with current Jackson Road standards.

Discount Tire Relocating to Scio

Discount Tire Company is in the process of opening a new store on a vacant 1.64 acre parcel on the north side of Jackson, just east of Midwest Financial Credit Union. The tire store is considered a conditional use in this C-2 General Commercial district. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this use based on the applicant's statement to exclude gas stations, car repair and other automotive uses that use gas and oil as part of the services provided. Three billboards will be removed as a part of the project. The applicant is proposing to construct a 6,942 s.f. building for tire sales. Access will be a shared drive with the bank to the east and a series of businesses will share an internal service drive, which makes Jackson Road safer by limiting the number of driveways.

Bearclaw Coffee Company (retail sales)

Bearclaw Coffee has found a location at 42 Enterprise Drive, and has made this location its headquarters, training facility and distribution site. There is also a small retail section for small businesses, but primarily for training. Bearclaw Coffee is excited to be in this community. It received approval from the Planning Commission for conditional land use for the above activities.



Tractor Supply Co. Coming to Scio Township

A parcel of land (about 4 acres of a larger 32 acre parcel) located on the south side of Jackson Road, several hundred

Planning Commission Adopts Shared-Use Pathways Report

The North Zeeb Road segment ranked high as it connects the existing sidewalk along Zeeb Road to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, planned to be constructed by the Washtenaw County Parks.

At a public hearing held September 27th, The Shared-Use Pathways Report from the Non-Motorized Paths Study Group was presented to the public and the Planning Commission; written and spoken comments were received and the Planning Commission moved to recommend adoption of the report by the Board of Trustees. You are encouraged to have a look at the report in its entirety, which can be found here: <https://twp-scio.ewashtenaw.org/pdfs/path%20report/>.

The Paths Study Group met monthly from January through August 2010. As chair of the group and on behalf of the citizens of Scio, I want to thank all the members for their commitment and for their thoughtful, insightful contributions throughout the process.

Shared-Use Path Planning Overview

Last year, in the continuing effort to implement the newly adopted Master Land Use Plan, the groundwork was laid for a new planning initiative – Non-Motorized Paths Planning – with the goal of “actually getting some segment of a high priority, shared-use path constructed and operational in the next five years for the citizens of Scio to use and enjoy.” The task was conceived as a three-phase effort. Phase 1 (completed with this report) consists of identification of key transportation routes/corridors in the Township suitable for a recreational, off-road, multi-use pathway. Phase 2 will concentrate on further development of the findings of the Phase 1 report. A Paths Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) will be formed to select one of the key path segments for construction, and then, with the assistance of professional engineers and/or landscape architects, preliminary design and cost estimates will be prepared. Phase 3 will include preparation of final construction drawings and acquisition of funding, culminating in actual construction of the pathway.

Report Findings

Based on the steps taken by the Scio Township Non-Motorized Paths Study Group as presented in this report, the following segments are considered as top priorities for the development of non-motorized shared-use paths within the Township:

- North Zeeb Road from the Washtenaw County Road Commission building north to Huron River Drive.
- Dexter-Ann Arbor Road, between the Village of Dexter and Zeeb Road.
- Liberty Road from Zeeb Road to the Ann Arbor City Limits.

The North Zeeb Road segment ranked high as it connects the existing sidewalk along Zeeb Road to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, planned to be constructed by the Washtenaw County Parks. It would also provide an important linkage to some of the newer high density developments located on South Zeeb Road and draw users along the Jackson Road corridor by way of existing sidewalk and bike lanes. Completion of this segment would provide the first north-south non-motorized linkage from Jackson Road to Huron River Drive. See map for all of the segments we considered.



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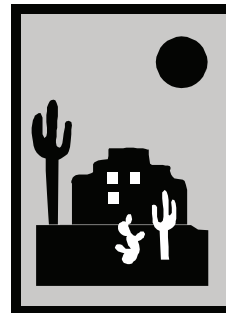
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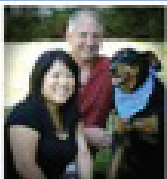
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Get involved in your community

Scio Township Information

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visit us at: www.twp.scio.mi.us

Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Utility Department Hours:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Utilities emergency: (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration: (734) 369-9350

Township Board of Trustees

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Nancy Hedberg, Clerk
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Richard DeLong, Trustee
Christine Green, Trustee
Jack Knowles, Trustee
David Read, Trustee
Darrell A. Fecho, Manager

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
Scott Martin – Utilities Director
James Merte – Assessing

Other Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff's Department,
Zeeb Road Sub-Station (734) 994-8105
County Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900

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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State Senator:

District 18 – Liz Brater
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Governor:

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

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U.S. Representatives:

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(202) 225-6276; www.schauer.house.gov/contact

District 15 – John Dingell
(202) 225-4071; www.house.gov/dingell

U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow
(202) 224-4822; senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Carl Levin
(202) 224-6221;
e-mail via www.levin.senate.gov

President of the United States:

Barack H. Obama
(202) 456-1111; president@whitehouse.gov

Celebrate Land Preservation!

The Land Preservation Commission
will host a celebration of

Land Preservation Successes

Tuesday, November 16
7 to 9 p.m.
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Participating Landowners will be honored
and
Photography Contest prizes will be awarded.

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