

Scio Township

Summer 2011 COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Township Update

While we drift into the summer doldrums, there are still a lot of activities ongoing at the Township. The Jackson Cruise is over, and was the most successful event so far. Next year it is contemplated that it will be held on the same weekend as the Rolling Sculpture car show in downtown Ann Arbor, presumably gathering even more participants.



are as unhappy as anyone can be, but lack the contractual leverage to force a satisfactory conclusion.

Public Safety

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Eric Holzer and James Jorah to the ranks of the full-time firefighters. Both were

long time paid-on-call firemen whose promotions were made possible by the Township's fire millage. In addition, Scio continues to work with the Village of Dexter, Dexter and Webster Townships on a potential consolidation of fire services into one new entity. While the discussions have been going on for an extended period, the parties continue to grow closer in accomplishing the consolidation. In the shorter term the consolidation is expected to produce improved service, and in the longer term, cost savings. The working group has set a goal of reaching an accord before the end of this year.

Zeeb Road Study

At the same time, the Scio Downtown Development Au-

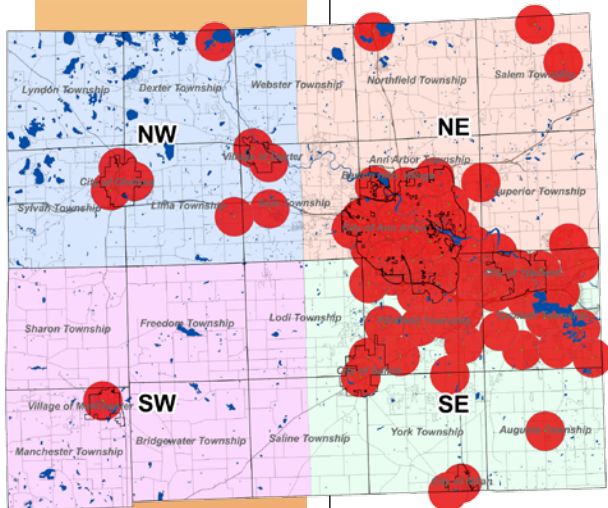
From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

Jackson Boulevard

A number of folks have noticed the problems involving the landscaping on the third phase of the boulevard. While the Scio DDA contributed a major portion of the cost for the construction of that phase, the actual contract is between MDOT and the landscape company who actually was responsible for and did the work, or didn't do the work in this case. Unfortunately, the finishing touches that would make the medians look good have either not occurred or when they have occurred, they have been long delayed and were poorly performed. Thus, for most of the past year, the third phase medians have been no thing of beauty in anyone's eyes. Hopefully, the State will turn the heat up and get the job done. Please know that we

WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF

Outdoor Warning Siren Test Notification



Washtenaw County's 39 warning sirens (see map left) will be tested at noon on the first Saturday of every month from March through September. If there is a threat of severe weather on the day of a test, it will be cancelled. Except for scheduled testing, the sirens will be activated for the following emergencies:

- The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning
- A severe thunderstorm has been detected with damaging winds in excess of 70 MPH
- A hazardous materials accident requires immediate protective action by the public
- An attack on the United States is imminent, underway or has recently occurred

Warning siren activation is a signal to members of the public to immediately go indoors and monitor local Emergency Alert System media outlets for official information. Washtenaw County's emergency broadcasters are:

WEMU 89.1 FM WQKL 107.1 FM WLBY 1290 AM
 WWWW 102.9 FM WTKA 1050 AM

thority has undertaken a study of future traffic issues on Zeeb Road north of Jackson, with a view to understanding and identifying potential problems as this area develops. When complete, the study will take into account potential development and will identify solutions for the projected traffic over the next thirty years.

Local roads - Local cooperation

Summer days always seem to highlight road problems. This year the plans for road improvements were delayed while the Township worked with other townships and the Road Commission for improvements to North Maple Road. The Township was willing to participate in the project, and to use part of its matching funds from the Road Commission, given the participation of residents in the area who are contributing to the cost of the roadwork. Three other townships are participating in the North Maple project as well. And the residents of the Uplands of Scio Ridge, a residential community in Scio, have undertaken to tax themselves to replace the pavement in their subdivision, paying for the project through a special assessment. Here

again, the Township used some limited funds to assist in the achievement of this project.

Secure Document Shredding

Recycle Ann Arbor operates Calvert's Recycling Center and now offers paper document shredding on the second Saturday of the month through October. The cost is \$2 per grocery bag; \$3 per bankers box; \$10 per car minimum. Calvert's is located at 7891 Jackson Road, just west of Baker.

A new website in the works

And as a final note, and in an effort to improve communications and provide a more attractive and more easily accessible range of Township related information, we are beginning the process to revise the Township's website. The website will no longer be hosted by Washtenaw County, and the program currently used for internal website changes will be replaced by one more easily used by all of the Township's departments, with the goal of providing a more easily updated, attractive and user friendly website.

BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

from The Treasurer's Desk



Tax bills have been mailed. If you haven't received yours, please contact my office. We will mail another after making sure our records are correct.

Credit card/electronic check options for payment

Taxes or utility bills can now be paid by either credit card or electronic check. If you pay by credit card, the convenience fee for utility bills is \$3 per \$100 or part thereof. For tax bills the credit card convenience fee is 3% of the total bill. If you pay by electronic check, there is a flat fee of \$3 for either type of bill. You may pay on-line or in person.

Some bills are still returned

Returned tax bills still remain a serious issue. To date we have expended an additional \$235 in postage and labor costs to research, update the records and re-mail the bills. The practice of re-mailing the bills may have to be re-evaluated. It is not a statutory requirement to do so. We keep reiterating that mail "forwarding orders" do not send your bills to the new address. The bills are returned to us.

Many thanks to all, who make my job enjoyable. I wish I could personally meet each of you when you make your payment.

BY MARTY MAYO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Scio Business News



The Scio business corridor is home to a company elected to the 2011 class of Michigan Top 50 Companies to Watch.

The company is Running Fit, Inc. Whose CEO, Randy Step, recently moved the corporate headquarters of the company to

5700 Jackson Road from a location off Enterprise Drive. To be selected for this honor, a company must be privately held, in a stage of growth and past the start-up phase. Running Fit was founded in 1985. It now has seven stores located in various parts of the state and employs 59 FTE (full time equivalent) staff members.

Promotes health and wellness

Since moving the retail store to Jackson Road just over a year ago, Running Fit has seen sales rise over 30%. The company's business goals are to promote individual health, community wellness and charitable endeavors for the environment. It works toward these goals not only by selling carefully tested running gear and shoes, but also by scheduling multiple classes for runners and sponsoring special events.

Two successes in Scio

Scio is home to a second company selected to the Michigan Top 50 Companies to Watch. The Motawi Tileworks, owned by Natal Motawi, was elected to the class of 2008. Scio is proud of these successful businesses right in our own midst.

Taxes or utility bills can now be paid by either credit card or electronic check.

Land Preservation Commission Update

Seeking residents with a strong interest in land preservation and a background in conservation, wildlife, forestry, agriculture, planning or another relevant field

Leadership Changes

After more than 6 years of leadership, Bruce Manny decided in April of this year to step down as chair of the Scio Land Preservation Commission (LPC). Bruce chaired the LPC since its inception in 2005. He led the group through its early development stages and saw it through the protection of 10 sites in the Township. I personally want to thank Bruce for his service to the Township and hope that I can adequately fill his shoes. We are fortunate that Bruce will continue to serve as a Commissioner so his experience and expertise will not be lost to the group. The Land Preservation Commission elected me to serve as its new chair at its April meeting. I am pleased to accept this responsibility. Also elected were Allison Arscott as Vice-Chair and Township Clerk Nancy Hedberg as LPC Secretary. Allison also serves as a member of the Township Planning Commission and is a former chair of that group. Leslie Desmond and Alec Jerome continue in their role of Commissioners. The LPC continues to evaluate and recommend properties for protection to the Township Board of Trustees. I will hopefully have news of more successes in the next issues of this newsletter.

New Commissioner Sought

Former LPC member Deaver Armstrong has moved from the township, thus creating a vacancy on the Commission. We are therefore looking for a volunteer to fill the opening on the LPC. Residents with a strong interest in land preservation and a background in conservation, wildlife, forestry, agriculture, planning or another relevant field should forward a letter of interest and resume to Township Clerk Hedberg.

In memorium

Sadly, we have recently learned of the passing of Don Botsford. Don was a long-time advocate of land preservation in the township and worked with the Land Preservation Commission to protect his property for the enjoyment of future generations. Don will be missed. Our condolences to his family and friends.

CLERK'S CORNER BY NANCY HEDBERG, CLERK

Elections 2011

The last election in 2011 will be held on November 8 for the Ann Arbor Public Schools school board members. The ballot may also include a request for additional millage funds.

Results from May's election

We had a relatively good turnout in May for the Dexter Community Schools School Board election and the WISD millage request. You may recall that the clerk can consolidate precincts for school elections, and since turnout is usually low, we chose to do that in May (and will implement the same type of plan in November to again save dollars). It is always fascinating to review the numbers following an election so I wanted to share them with you here. Turnout on May 3, 2011:

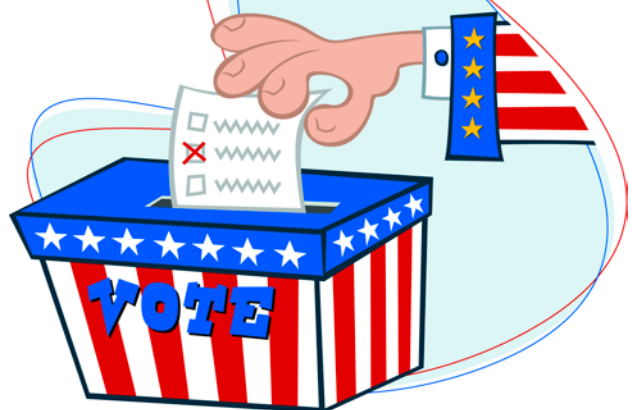
Precinct	Registered Voters	Ballots cast	Percentage
1	2339	384	16.42%
2, 3, & 5	3817	537	14.04%
4, 6, & 8	4569	788	17.25%
7 & 9	3851	616	16.00%

Dexter School Board candidates received the following percent of the vote: Letwin, 12.66%; Luczak, 15.54%; Lundy, 33.93%; Schumaker, 37.69%; and write-in, 0.18%. The response to the WISD millage was 76.87%, yes and 23.13%, no.

Don't forget to register

The last day to register before the November 8 School Election is Monday, October 11, 2011. Please watch this column or check in with the Township's website for information on polling locations. Applications for absentee voting for November election will go out in early September.

The last date to register before any election is 30 days prior to an election date. If you have a change of address please be sure to update your information with the Secretary of State's office, or here at the Township offices as soon as possible. You only have to register once (unless you move) and you can check your registration status by going to: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/votersearch.aspx>



The last day to register before the November 8 School Election is Monday, October 11, 2011.

911 Calls



There have been a few questions lately regarding the method of handling 9-1-1 calls. The Sheriff's Department has provided the following explanation:

Seven different dispatch centers

Landline calls are routed based on address for the phone number, each address is assigned an ESN (Emergency Service Number) which determines which PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point, i.e.: dispatch center) receives the call. Currently in Washtenaw County there are 7 PSAP locations where a call can be routed. They are Metro Dispatch (Ann Arbor City, Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City, Michigan State Police and Northfield Police), Chelsea PD, Milan, Pittsfield Twp, Saline PD, U of M, and EMU. Due to porting of phone numbers, the numbers are not reliable in determining where a call can be routed.

Calls are easily transferred

Cell phone calls are routed based on the cell site/sector information on the tower that the cell phone is using. So even if you purchased your phone in Lansing and have a 517 area code and phone number and were traveling in Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area, the tower determines what PSAP the call is routed to. So in driving through the area of Carpenter Rd/Hogback and Washtenaw the call could be routed to Pittsfield Township or to Metro Dispatch depending on what tower and sector of a tower the cell phone connects with. Each PSAP has the ability to transfer these calls to the correct dispatch center with a one-button transfer.

We will still ask for an address

Cell phones today have what is called Phase II capability, which means that most PSAP's (over 90% in the country have this capability) will receive the caller's phone number and the caller's geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude) instead of street location. This means that dispatchers will still ask for an address or location in order to be certain where you are (they also do this on landline calls as computer screens can sometimes display inaccurate information). We can then verify those coordinates by plugging those in to our mapping programs, for example Google Maps, to narrow down the location. Phase II coordinates will be within 125 meters of the actual location about 67% of the time.

Local examples

Dexter and Manchester landline calls would be routed to Metro Dispatch and calls from Whitmore Lake area (those address in Northfield) will also route here. Calls for Whitmore Lake on the north would be Livingston County so they would route to Livingston Central Dispatch.



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Get involved in your community

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(734) 369-9400; info@twp.scio.mi.us
visit us at: www.twp.scio.mi.us

Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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
Donna Palmer, Treasurer
Richard DeLong, Trustee
Christine Green, Trustee
Jack Knowles, Trustee
David Read, Trustee

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.

Editor
David Read
Graphic Design
Julie Tanguay
Photographer
David Read

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.

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(734) 222-6860

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District 3 – Alicia Ping
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District 9 – Leah Gunn
(734) 663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org

District 10 – Conan Smith
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(517)373-0828; MarkOuimet@house.mi.gov

State Senator:
District 18 – Rebekah Warren
(517) 373-2409; <http://www.senate.mi.gov/dem/warren/>

Governor:
Rick Snyder
(517) 373-3400; e-mail via www.michigan.gov/gov

Federal Information:

U.S. Representatives:
District 7 – Tim Walberg
(202) 225-6276; <http://walberg.house.gov/>

District 15 – John Dingell
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(202) 224-4822; senator@stabenow.senate.gov

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SCIO TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT BY SCOTT MARTIN, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Utilities Update

Residents who choose to use the water-pressure driven, sump pump backup units should be fully aware of the following information.

Monitor these units

If you are a customer of the municipal water system AND your home loses electricity and the back-up unit becomes operational, OR if the unit has a float that sticks in the open position causing the unit to run continually, you are drawing water from the municipal supply. That is how the unit is designed to work. The municipal water supply provides the water pressure to keep the sump pump operational. If the backup unit works correctly, your sump pump will do the job of safely discharging excess water and will shut off when power is restored. If the backup unit should not shut off, it will continue to draw on the municipal water supply resulting in the usage of an inordinate amount of municipal water; water that passes through the primary water meter of your home; water that you are being charged for. Remember too that sewer charges are computed based on

the reading of the primary water meter. It is possible for the homeowner to use large amounts of water without being aware of the problem. Please understand how your backup unit works and monitor it after power outages and storm events.

A word of caution

The Township has had a number of these problems occur because the homeowner was unaware of the backup units and their function or that the unit was continuing to operate unnecessarily. Recently, a resident incurred a water bill of over \$12,000 during such an event. Please remember: the homeowner is responsible for all charges that are incurred.

