

Scio Township

Winter 2012

COMMUNITY REPORT

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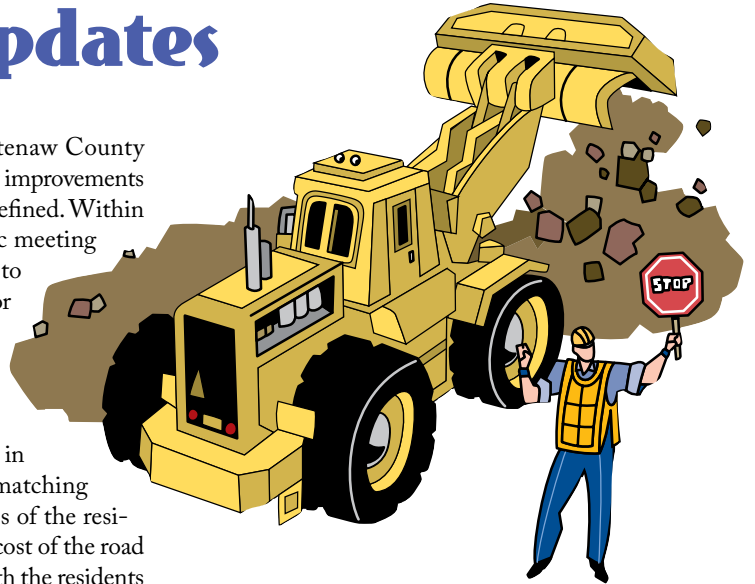
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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY SPAULDING CLARK, SUPERVISOR

Township Updates

Local Roads

In the arena of road issues, the Washtenaw County Road Commission's (WCRC) plans for improvements to North Maple Road continue to be refined. Within the past month, the WCRC held a public meeting to discuss the it's plans for improvements to North Maple Road with Scio and Ann Arbor Townships and our local residents. Some work was done this past fall with regard to improving drainage at the southern end. Scio Township and the other three affected Townships have been willing to participate in the project, and to use part of our/their matching funds on the project, given the willingness of the residents in the area to contribute toward the cost of the road work. The WCRC continues to interact with the residents to accomplish needed repairs in the least intrusive way possible, and to try and address a number of road related issues affecting the homeowners in the area. Hopefully, the WCRC can come up with a plan acceptable to all and can then complete the project this spring.



the Township will retain its independent fire department and will concentrate on reviewing our own operations as a standalone entity.

Website modifications

In our effort to improve communications by providing a more attractive and informative Township website, we continue to work with two local professionals, Annie Wolock and Dan Romanchik, to completely revise the Township's website. The goal is to provide a more easily updated, attractive and user friendly website, and all of us working on the project have been encouraged to see the outlines of the final version. Stay tuned, it won't be much longer.

Land Preservation

Finally, the Township Board has determined it would be appropriate and in the best interests of the Township to place a renewal of the land preservation millage on the ballot in the November 2012 election. The final ballot language has yet to be determined, but the Board believes that the Township's land preservation effort has been very successful and to maintain this program into the future, it should continue to be financed and implemented beyond the upcoming termination date of the current millage. Hopefully, our citizens will agree.

Fire Department

On the fire-fighting front, Scio continues to work with the Village of Dexter, Dexter Township and Webster Township 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. A proposed agreement for consolidation is being circulated among the four communities, and it is expected that by February the agreement will be placed on the agendas of the participating communities to consider for adoption. Thereafter, if adopted by all of the communities, the details of the consolidation can be addressed. As noted in previous editions of this newsletter, the consolidation is expected to produce improved service for all of the communities, and in the longer term, cost savings. With adoption of the draft consolidation agreement, the entity will receive its new name and a new Fire Chief will be hired to guide the process of consolidation. Were the proposed consolidation not accepted,



A Reminder

The 2011 property taxes are due by February 14, 2012. Any payments received after that date will have a 3% delinquent fee added until they are turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. On March 1, 2012, the delinquent fee

changes to 4%.

Please allow 4-5 business days for processing when mailing your payment. Thank you.

BY IRWIN MARTIN, CHAIR, LPC

Land Preservation Update

LPC News

We are currently in the process of finalizing the protection of two additional properties in the township. We hope to have more information on these exciting properties in the next newsletter. Additionally, the Board of Trustees has agreed to ask Scio residents to renew the Land Preservation millage. The millage - originally approved in 2004 for 10 years and due to expire at the end of 2013 - will be on ballot for a 10-year renewal this November. Given the many successes in land preservation the millage has generated since its passage, the LPC is excited the Board of Trustees has agreed to seek its renewal. There be much more on the millage renewal in future issues!



Renew the
Land
Preservation
millage.

CLERK'S CORNER BY NANCY HEDBERG, CLERK

Presidential Primary on february 28

We will be starting the year out with a Presidential Primary on February 28th and while that may seem far off to you as you receive this newsletter, you can rest assured that we at the Township offices have been working on it since before the New Year started! You can plan to vote at your regular polling place in February, August, and November. It is easy to find the information by checking the Secretary of State's "Voter Information Center". The State's website address is: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>. The information is on the Township's website as well.

Are you a 'Snowbird'? Every spring I have a number of applications returned because voters on the Permanent Absentee Voter list have headed south and forgotten to let me know. If you plan to be gone, please call the Township offices to tell me where it should be sent. I will be mailing Presidential Primary Election AV applications in early January.

Here's another pointer when filling out your Absent Voter

application: be sure to read the application thoroughly and fill out every applicable blank. For the Presidential Primary you MUST check which party ballot you are applying for. Please note that there are two places for your signature on the application. One attests to the reason for your request, the other is the application to vote. If anything is missing, we will need to call you to come in to complete the missing information, and it is hard to find unlisted phone numbers in the phone book.

Don't forget to register

January 30, 2012 will be the last day to register to vote in the Presidential Primary. 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/>. Address changes must be made within 6 months of your permanent move.

Register
to
VOTE!



Scio Business News

Medical devices
is one of
Scio's
success stories.

Have you ever told someone that Scio Township is just a rural bedroom community or that Jackson Blvd. is a highway with auto and banking strip malls along side – that empty space between Ann Arbor and Dexter? Well, such an image of Scio couldn't be farther from the truth. Scio has five business parks and more than 800 businesses. Some are major international firms. Scio's active business community is one of the best kept secrets in area! EDAC has identified several business "clusters" in the Township – groups of businesses with similar interests and programs. Medical devices is one of Scio's success stories. This cluster is anchored by a thriving manufacturing firm with international reach – Terumo Cardiovascular Systems. Terumo has grown significantly in recent years and is still on a growth spurt. Surrounding this company are several smaller companies with similar interests; and it is not by chance that they are here.

MC3

MC3 is one of Scio's "senior" start-ups. This company, located at 3550 West Liberty, plays a key role in attracting others to Scio. MC3 was founded in 1991 by Scott Merz. Early on the company focused on the design of specialty medical devices, bringing research and development expertise to scientists with ideas. MC3 helps these scientists move their concepts into commercial production, by guiding them to grants and funding, building and testing devices, and identifying potential partners for production. Recently, MC3 expanded their own production capacity and the company along with it. There are now 17 employees at MC3 and the company expects to expand.

Scott Merz, an Easterner originally from Allentown, PA, is MC3's CEO. He came to U-M for his Ph.D.

in Bio-Engineering and started his business while still a student. Under Scott's leadership, MC3 has become a business accelerator for others with new concepts who need help taking them to market. Scott provides guidance in business matters as well as with issues relating to research and development.

MC3 encourages related businesses

Who knew? Scio has its own business hatchery! New start-up companies share space with MC3 until they are strong enough to move out to their own location. One of the larger success stories for MC3 is Accuri Cytometers which started out in the MC3 space. It was recently sold to Becton Dickenson for a tidy sum, but the company remains in Scio as a branch of its new parent. Other companies encouraged to move to Scio include Tangent Medical, which makes special devices for vascular IVs, and Histosonics, which makes ultrasound surgical instruments. Scott says that he would like to see three or four start-ups in the MC3 space at all times; he sees this as part of his company's service to the community.

Scio has many amenities

What does Scott like about Scio as a place to locate his business? Most important to him is the fact that Scio is accessible – to everything his company needs. It is close to Jackson Rd., to I-94 and M14. Getting to the University hospital is a breeze. There is no traffic congestion. Compared to alternative locations in the Ann Arbor area, Scio has it hands down – other locations are more expensive as well as congested. Scott is also pleased by the proximity to various services in the Township – restaurants, hardware stores, filling stations. He enjoys having a larger "anchor" company close by along with other medical devices companies, to exchange ideas, mutual support and staff.

Kudos to MC3 and Scott Merz! Scio Township is lucky to have such a vibrant star in its business constellation.



Scott Merz

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Local Road Projects for 2012

Do Your Roads Need Help?

If so, you are invited to attend the Local Roads Advisory Committee meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 3:00 in Township Hall. Alternately, you could contact Lew Kidder, chair of the Township's Local Roads Committee, for more information lew.kidder@comcast.net



Two significant road projects are working their way towards construction later this year. One involves the paving of a heavily-used section of Park Road, while the other would result in significant repairs to 4.3 miles of paved streets in the Polo Fields. Each will be funded in large part by special assessment districts proposed by property owners in those neighborhoods.

Paving Park Road

The portion of Park Road in question lies just east of Zeeb Road and stretches some 1100 feet from Scio Town Center Drive on the west to the westerly entrance of Birkdale Drive. This 0.2 mile stretch provides the sole means of access for two small neighborhoods (Hunter's Crossing & The Woods of Park Road) and one significant business (Annie's Child Care Center). Additionally, it serves as an important feeder to the northern portion of the Polo Fields development. The road sees a high rate of traffic – often over 1,000 vehicle trips each day – and the gravel surface deteriorates rapidly under that level of use. The cost of the Park Road project has been estimated by road commission engineers to be somewhere between \$170,000 and \$200,000.

Two SADs will be required

A significant share of project funding will be produced by two separate special assessment districts (SADs). The west 900' will get much of its funding from Park Road SAD#1, which is being created by 31 property owners: 20 in Hunter's Crossing, 10 in The Woods of Park Road, plus Annie's Child Care Center. It is estimated the total price for each of these owners will be around \$3,500. Once the project is finalized, there will be a 30-day window in which an individual owner can decide either to pay the total assessment in a lump sum or elect to amortize it over a 10-year period. If the latter, the annual payment will be added to the December tax bill and include interest. In 2011, the interest rate in a similar SAD was just under 4.0%.

The east 200' of the Park Road project will be funded by Park Road SAD#2. This district includes 41 total homes, 39 of which front on Birkdale Drive and Burswood Court in the northwestern portion of the Polo Fields development. It is estimated that each owner in this district will be assessed between \$750 and \$900 for his/her total share of project costs.

The two SADs were initiated by petitions circulated by the owners in that particular district and were submitted in December of 2011. Once road commission engineers have developed a comprehensive design, there will be a public hearing at the township to discuss and evaluate the project. And though the hearing has not yet been scheduled, a date in early to mid-April seems likely. Written notice will be mailed to all affected property owners, posted on the township website, and published in the Dexter Leader.

The Polo Fields Project

The development widely known as the "Polo Fields" actually

consists of five separate phases. The first two – Saginaw Greens North and Saginaw Greens East – began in the late 1980's, while two others – Fairway Park and the Preserves at the Polo Fields – followed a decade or so later. The fifth (The Gallery at the Polo Fields) is of much more recent vintage. Given such differences, one would expect the current condition of roads in the development to vary widely. And one would be right. Roads in Saginaw Greens North (Birkdale, Glenmoore, Gullane, Lytham, and the five small "courts") and Saginaw Greens East (Dornoch, Eltham) are in the worst shape. These roads have developed major problems and will require a substantial rebuilding effort, including grinding up the current pavement with a very large "rototiller", reshaping and compacting the crown, and then applying 3" of new asphalt in two courses. A similar protocol is necessary for the two major entrances to the development: Polo Fields Drive from Zeeb to Glenmoore, and Dornoch Drive from Liberty to Polo Fields Drive. With minor exceptions, however, the balance of the roads in the development are still in reasonable condition – and if steps are taken now to preserve and protect these roads, the owners will be able to guard against much greater expenditures in the future.

Multiple SADs required

For the better part of two years now, the board of the Polo Fields home owners association has been studying a range of issues presented by their roads. Helped by a number of owners within the development, they held several public meetings and considered a wide variety of options. Late last fall, they settled on a basic set of plans and initiated a petition drive for two separate SADs.

Polo Fields SAD#1 will cover the rebuilding of roads in Saginaw Greens North and Saginaw Greens East, and is estimated to cost \$3,500 or so for each homeowner in those areas. Polo Fields SAD#2 will deal with the roads in the newer parts of the development (Fairway Park and the Preserves), rebuilding in the few spots where necessary and applying an overlay to the balance. The cost to owners in the latter SAD is estimated at \$2,500 each. Work on the two main entrances will be shared equally among all owners in the two districts. And as true with the Park Road project, owners will have the opportunity to pay in one lump sum – thus eliminating interest – or spread payments out over a ten-year period.

At the date of this article, the petition drive for the two Polo Field SADs was nearing completion. The statute being used requires at least 51% of the owners – by frontage – to sign the petition. Polo Fields SAD#1 had already reached 58% in "yes" signatures and #2 was getting very close to the required standard. Once those petitions are submitted, a public hearing will be scheduled – likely in late March or early April. Written notice will be mailed to all affected property owners, posted on the township website, and published in the Dexter Leader.



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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Utilities Administration: (734) 369-9350

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Get involved in your community

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www.ewashtenaw.org

Water Resources Commissioner:

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

County Road Commission

(734) 761-1500; wcr@wccroads.org

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(734) 341-6612; turnerr@ewashtenaw.org

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District 18 – Rebekah Warren
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Governor:

Rick Snyder
(517) 373-3400; rick.snyder@michigan.gov

Federal Information:

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District 7 – Tim Walberg
(202) 225-6276; e-mail via www.walberg.house.gov

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

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

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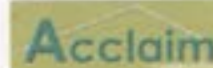
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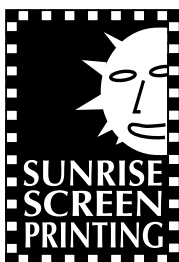
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