

Scio Township

Spring 2018

COMMUNITY REPORT

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY JACK KNOWLES, SUPERVISOR

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We now have an official Township Rock!

SCIO ROCKS!

We all know this, but to borrow an old phrase, this is a rock of a different color nature. If you've driven by Township Hall during the past couple of months, you probably noticed (how could you miss?) the large earthmoving project underway in front of the building. This is all part of the Utility Department addition/expansion that has been in process since last October. We, as with anyone else that develops land, have to meet the various regulations and ordinances, thus we had to enlarge our storm water storage area to satisfy the requirements of the Washtenaw County Water Resources office. While the work is finally shaping up and the large dirt piles are almost gone (we can see Zeeb Road again) during the course of the project, along with many smaller stones, the workers unearthed one large, very heavy boulder that was buried deep in our front yard. Upon seeing this 'rock' we asked them to put it aside so we could figure out what to do with it. We didn't want to just bury it again, as apparently the glacier had originally.

So, further inspection and detailed analysis by Township staff (just kidding) has determined that we have a large piece of granite, sort of a rounded off triangular shape, measuring 4 feet top to bottom, 6 feet long and an average of 4 feet in width. A staff member has affectionately nicknamed it "Rocksy", but we are not going to rush into such an important decision and are soliciting other possible names from our residents (please send your suggestions to info@sciotownship.org, ATTN: ROCK). In true governmental fashion, perhaps we will convene a select committee to review the results.

As part of the addition to Township Hall, other related work/improvements are happening including exterior painting, a new sidewalk from the Zeeb Road path to the front door, parking lot lighting and security cameras and landscape improvements, particularly in the front door area. Much of the landscaping in the front area has become overgrown and unsightly and will be removed and redone. Since this is happening, and we now have an official Township Rock, the plans have been amended to include it. It will be located to the right of the sidewalk leading to the front door.



Photo by Jack Knowles

Unlike the famous rock in the City just east of us, we are not encouraging citizens to decorate it with their favorite colors remember, there are security cameras. However, we are interested in learning more about it and hope there may be a retired or amateur geologist / "rock hound" in the Township that might be interested in giving us more information about it that might be of value to put on an informational plaque. If that's you, please call me at the Township Hall, let's ROCK!

Looking for election inspectors

Check the Township's website to be sure you get to the right polling place.

Would YOU Like to be an Election Inspector?

The Scio Township Clerk's Office is in search of civically minded citizens to participate in our electoral process as election inspectors.

Election inspectors are responsible for the oversight and implementation of the voting process at the precinct level. After receiving training from the Clerk's Office, inspectors are assigned precincts and shift. Each election day, inspectors are there to help voters with the process.

We provide early morning donuts, supertime sandwiches, and a small hourly wage. An hour lunchtime break is "on your own".

If you are interested in participating in local government as an election inspector, contact the Clerk at (734) 369-9400 or visit <http://sciotownship.org/government/clerk/election-worker-positions/> and look for the application to become an election inspector.

Regular Elections in August and November

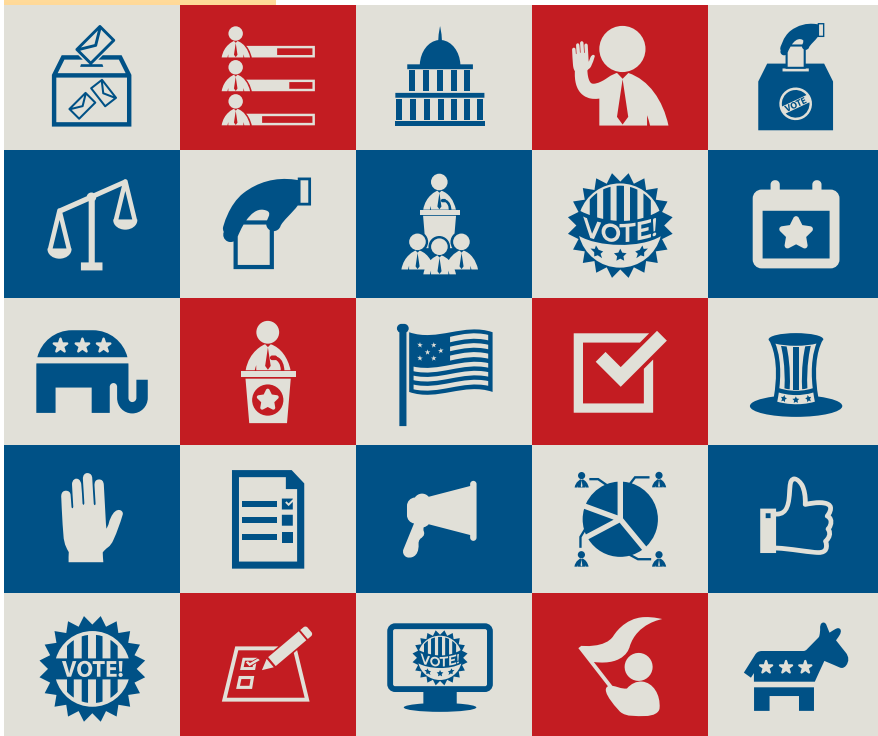
The Primary Election is August 7th, and the General Election is November 6th. Make sure you are registered to vote, check your precinct, and review a sample ballot for upcoming elections at <http://michigan.gov/vote>.

Register to Vote

Any day is the right day to register to vote. However, July 9th is the last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote in the August 7th election. Recently, nationwide and locally, there have been pushes to register eligible high school students to vote. While people must be 18 years old by an election day to vote in that election, people can register to vote when they are 17 1/2 years old. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, and other newly eligible voters to register.

What Helps You Get Out to Vote?

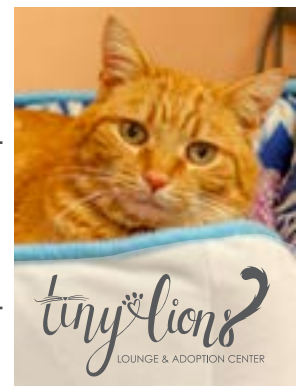
A large number of Scio Township voters vote via absentee ballot. In fact, in the November 2016 election, over 30% of votes were cast absentee (3,127 of 10,368 votes cast). People eligible to vote absentee may apply to do so prior to each election. For the rest of us who vote in person, we at the Clerk's Office are looking for ways to help Scio voters get to the polls more easily. We want to hear from you about what we might do differently to help you get the polls. More information about transportation to polls? Other information? Let us know! Contact me at jflintoft@sciotownship.org with your suggestions.



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Major Road Work Coming

Major Road Work Coming to Scio Township

It is almost everyone's favorite time of year, construction season!

This year the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) has two major road projects in Scio Township. Starting in April/May, the 2.1 mile section of Dexter-Ann Arbor Road will be pulverized and resurfaced from Dan Hoey Road to Zeeb Road. The project is expected to take three to four weeks, weather dependent. This \$800,000 project is funded using federal and local funds.

This summer, WCRC and the City of Dexter will also build two roundabouts on Baker Road. The first will be at Baker Road and Shield Road; the second will be at Baker Road and Dan Hoey Road. WCRC and the City of Dexter received a \$1.3 million Federal Congestion Mitigation and

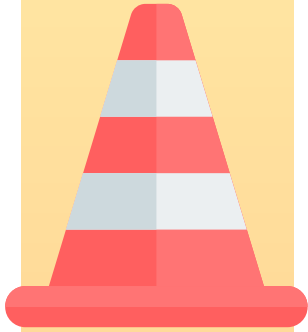
Air Quality grant for this project. The roadway between the two roundabouts will be reconstructed with improved pedestrian facilities. Preliminary work on Baker Road is already underway. Construction will take place during Dexter Community Schools' summer break; the goal is to be completed before the start of school in September.

For both the Dexter-Ann Arbor and Baker Road projects, road users, who do not live or own property within the project limits, will be required to follow posted detour routes or use an alternate route during construction.

These are just two of many exciting WCRC projects planned across the county this year.

Learn more about the 2018 construction season online, visit <http://www.wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/> and follow @WashtenawRoads on Facebook and Twitter.

It's construction season!



Photos by Emily Kizer

FAQ about township services

If the issue you are interested in is not within the jurisdiction of the Township we make every effort to provide a follow-up resource or contact for you.



One of our main goals at Scio Township is to provide quality service to our residents. The Township invites you to contact Township offices if you have a question, comment or need help (734-369-9400 or <http://sciotownship.org/contact-us/>). If the issue you are interested in is not within the jurisdiction of the Township we make every effort to provide a follow-up resource or contact for you.

Most often when residents contact the Township Hall, they are unsure if they are contacting the appropriate entity. One of the most common mistakes is contacting Scio Township to reach the Building Department, which is at Washtenaw County. All inspections with respect to building codes, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing are done through the Washtenaw County Building Department.

Frequently asked questions:

1. “Does the Township remove dead animals from private property and/or roadside?”

No, years ago the Washtenaw County Road Commission offered help but that is no longer available through the WCRC. You may find help at this private sponsored website: <http://www.aaanimalcontrol.com/Professional-Trapper/county/MI-Washtenaw-County-Animal-Services.htm>.

2. “Does the Township recycle old paint cans and toxic materials?”

No. Washtenaw County provides this service from 9:00-12:00 the first three Saturdays of the month from April through November. Find more information at; www.washtenaw.org/recycle



3. “Does the Township do document shredding?”

No. The Recovery Yard, 7891 Jackson Road, 734-426-2280, does offer this service for a fee.



4. “Where can I dispose of old prescription medication?”

The Fire Department has the “Big Red Barrel” located outside of their building for this purpose. Also Washtenaw County has information on its website: dontflushdrugs.com



5. “Where can I dispose of yard waste?”

The Recovery Yard, 7891 Jackson Road, 734-426-2280.



The Honey Creek Project

This project is unique because it is likely that together, we can remove human-sourced pathogens and significantly reduce overall bacteria levels in Honey Creek.

Huron River Watershed Council Honey Creek Project

In 2014, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) completed a 3 year watershed plan for the Honey Creek area in partnership with Scio Township, Washtenaw County, and the state (DEQ). HRWC studied the creek, measuring and taking samples at many sites, and found high levels of E.coli (bacteria).

Following this plan, HRWC received a grant in 2016 to address the pollution in Honey Creek. Working with Scio Township, HRWC is reaching out to Scio residents and providing information on specific actions that will reduce the bacteria in the creek. After HRWC completes its outreach project, they will study the creek again to measure improvements.

Last summer, HRWC labeled 500 stormdrains in some Scio neighborhoods to remind residents that only rain should go down the drains. Those living in the areas of the labeling got flyers to explain the importance of keeping stormdrains clear of debris. Here are the stormdrain tips for protecting the creek:

- Sweep up any trash or debris (leaves, lawn clippings, twigs) from stormdrains.
- Rake, mulch, or compost leaves.
- Pick up pet waste and put it in the trash.
- Do not dump or pour anything into a stormdrain.
- Use a commercial car wash (they treat their waste water.) If you wash your car at home, park it on the grass.
- Sign up to HRWC's Adopt-a-Stormdrain program.

Call (800) 292-4706 to report illegal dumping. For hazardous spills, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Take our survey

HRWC also mailed surveys to 700 residents to gather opinions on local water resources and gauge local awareness of problems and solutions related to water. Results will be posted to the HRWC website this summer.

Other outreach activities are in the works such as proper pet waste disposal, septic tank maintenance tips, and meeting with interested farmers to learn more about management practices.

This project is unique because it is likely that together, we can remove human-sourced pathogens and significantly reduce overall bacteria levels in Honey Creek. Given the level of contamination in the creek, it is quite possible that the pathogen impairment could be completely removed and the creek returned to full beneficial use status. HRWC is hoping this project will serve as a model for reducing bacteria levels in similar watersheds around the state. To learn more about this project, go to hrwc.org/honeycreek



The Honey Creek project has been funded wholly or in part through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Anita Daley, Marketing Specialist
Huron River Watershed Council
adaley@hrwc.org
<https://www.hrwc.org/honeycreek/>

Recycling Update

The goal is to reduce the number of heavy trucks on Township Roads and bring efficiency to residents.

Update on the Township-wide trash and recycling services

Scio Township intends to provide curbside trash and recycling services throughout the Township. Refuse collection will be shifted from multiple private bidders who contract individually with homeowners to the Township-wide **PREFERRED VENDOR** contract.

Participation in the Township-wide Preferred Vendor Waste and Recycling Services collection program will be available to all single family residences in the Township. Homeowner Associations (HOA's) will also be encouraged to opt-in to the program.

The Township is evaluating proposals for the Township-wide trash and recycling services.

A committee has been formed to review the proposals and recommend the one that offers the best value to the Township. The review and evaluation process will take approximately 5 weeks. Once a company is selected the

Township will begin contract negotiations which will take approximately 3 weeks. Once a contract is signed the contractor will need 90-120 days to bring in equipment, trash and recycling bins, trucks and hire staff.

From the review process will The Township of Scio will be evaluating quality of service offered, experience, cost, and other intangibles. The goal is to reduce the number of heavy trucks on Township Roads and bring efficiency to residents. More information will be available in 3-4 months as the Township advertises and begins the review process.

The Township anticipates the service will be in full operation by January of 2019.

To better help the Township a survey will be posted on the Township's website at <http://sciotownship.org/>. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your responses will be part of the evaluation criteria.

I want to thank everyone in advance for your participation and partnership.



Peter Baker, CPCU
Agency Principal



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Scio Township Information

Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
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(734) 369-9400; info@sciotownship.org
visit us at: www.sciotownship.org

Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Utility Department Hours:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Utilities Emergency (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration (734) 369-9350

Township Board of Trustees

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Irwin G. Martin, Trustee – Imartin@sciotownship.org
David Read, Trustee – DRead@sciotownship.org

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@sciotownship.org will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

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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Jim Merte – jmerte@sciotownship.org – Assessing/IT
Fran Szuma – fszuma@sciotownship.org – Administrative Clerk

Other Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff's Department,
Zeeb Road Sub-Station (734) 994-2911
County Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900

Washtenaw County Information:

Water Resources Commissioner:

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

County Road Commission

(734) 761-1500; wrcr@wcroads.org

County Commissioner:

District 1 – Kent Martinez-Kratz
Martinez-KratzK@ewashtenaw.

State Information:

State Representative

District 52 - Donna Lasinski
(855) 627-5052; DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov

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District 22 - Joe Hune
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Rick Snyder
(517) 373-3400; rick.snyder@michigan.gov

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(202) 225-6276; www.walberg.house.gov

District 12 – Debbie Dingell

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Gary Peters

(202) 224-6221; www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary

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