



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

ZEEB ROAD PATH UPDATE

While not yet visible, a lot has been happening with the Zeeb Road Pathway. The engineering plans for the next phase (3) are under review and were issued for competitive bids in late September. This segment will continue the path north across Dexter-Ann Arbor and Miller Roads, and then extend another 1000 feet north of Miller.

Construction is slated for spring of 2021. The engineering plans for Phase 4 (to Peters Road) should commence later this fall, with bidding in spring 2021 and possible construction in late 2021 or early 2022. In addition, work on the planning for the bridge over the Huron River and the railroad track crossing will also commence this fall. The Phase 3 work is largely funded by grants from the Washtenaw County Connecting Communities program, and the Michigan DNR Trust Fund program. Thank you to all who voted for the Township's Parks & Paths millage this past August. It will provide a dedicated funding source to guarantee the completion of the Zeeb Road Pathway, and other pathway and park projects in the Township.

SOLID WASTE UPDATE

This past July, the Scio Board of Trustees passed amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance. These amendments were made in response

to comments that had been made by citizens at public meetings. The most significant revision was deleting the previously proposed mandatory service requirement. In August we worked with legal counsel on a draft contract to propose and to coordinate different sections of it with the new ordinance. As of this writing, the first contract negotiation meeting with GFL is scheduled and the intent is to bring a proposed contract to the Board of Trustees for consideration in October.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

This fall will bring major changes within our Utilities Department. We are currently interviewing candidates for the Director position and hope to have that position filled by the end of October. We are also looking for a new Utility Field Supervisor due to the retirement of long-time employee Eugene Payton. These are the two leadership positions within the department and these changes will likely bring a new management style and new ideas.

Elsewhere in this issue is a story about Eugene Payton (see page 10). Over the past 4 years I have had the pleasure of working with and getting to know Gene. He is "old school" and that's what I love about him. There are few, if any, utility tasks that he hasn't experienced and dealt with in his career.... many of them not so pleasant... just ask him sometime! Gene has

BY JACK KNOWLES, SUPERVISOR

always been there for the Township....no task ever took too long, was too difficult, or went unfinished. Gene always got it done... the right way. Thank you Gene on behalf of the entire Township!

FIRE STATION RENOVATION

As you drive past the Fire Station on Zeeb Road, you may notice some work is underway. Actually, that is the first of two phases to expand and upgrade the building, which is the first

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significant alteration accomplished on the building since it was built in the mid-1980s. The first phase consists of two parts: (1) expansion of the apparatus (truck) bay and developing a "decontamination" area within it, and (2) the addition of a new independent vehicle storage building in the northwest corner of the property. That building will assist as a staging area for Phase 2 of the renovation (scheduled for 2021 construction) which is a complete remodeling/ updating of the interior of the fire department portion of the building, including new crew quarters, restrooms, showers, day area, and offices. When complete, the fire house will better serve the needs of our department which, as the Township has grown, has transformed from a part time, paid-on-call (volunteer) operation to a career department with 10 full-time fire personnel.

CARRIE GRANITE

I recently received an email from EMU Earth Science Professor Eric Portenga inquiring about our hunk of stone in front of Township Hall (otherwise known as "Carrie Granite"). Technically (Eric tells me) Carrie is a "glacial erratic," which is a term geologists give to rocks that were left behind by glaciers or ice sheets in the past, and were often buried within or at the surface of



Carrie Granite

broad ridges of sediment called "moraines."

Eric is undertaking a research project to improve our understanding of Michigan's icy history and discovering and studying the locations of "glacial erratics" is an important part of his research. He is asking for assistance from anyone who has knowledge of the locations of any large boulders (3-4 feet across/high) sitting out there in the wild, especially undisturbed ones. He can be contacted at eric.portenga@emich.edu. Happy Erratic Hunting!

SO LONG

This is my final newsletter article, as at high noon on November 20 I will give up my Supervisor position to the new person whom you will elect in the November 3rd election. 28 years ago I was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and began my journey with the Township. I never envisioned running for an elected office, but circumstances have a way of changing your thinking. I have enjoyed being an integral part of what keeps Scio running and more than anything I have enjoyed meeting so many of you who live in and care so much about Scio. Also, we are all very fortunate to be blessed with a group of dedicated people who keep the Township running smoothly day after day. That includes the office and front desk workers,

RECENTLY MOVED TO SCIO?

Not sure if you are registered to vote... or where to vote? All this and more (including voter registration!) can be found at michigan.gov/vote.

ACCESSIBLE BALLOTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Blind and severely disabled voters with internet access can now attain the same level of privacy and independence in their voting as all other citizens. By going online at Michigan.gov/Vote to request an absentee ballot, registered voters with disabilities may request an Accessible Ballot to be emailed directly to them. The ballot is voted using accessible computer software, then printed and mailed back to the Clerk's Office to be counted on Election Day along with all the other absent voter ballots. Alex Gossage, Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, commented: "I am pleased that here in Michigan we are making progress on voting access issues and the opportunity to utilize an electronic accessible ballot is a step in the right direction."

utility staff, fire fighters and the Sheriff's Department. These people are the ones who keep the Township moving forward. Thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to the Township.

It is now someone else's turn to take the helm, and I hope that you give your new Supervisor the support and kindness that so many of you have shown me during my entire time here.

WELCOME MATT DONAJKOWSKI

Welcome to Matt Donajkowski, a new Utilities technician who started in July. Matt comes to us from a machine shop in



Matt Donajkowski

Dexter and is enjoying the greater variety of work available in his new position. Matt also likes the ability to work outdoors and to always be learning something new. Happy to have you on the crew Matt!

ELECTION CALENDAR

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3
Polls are open 7 am - 8 pm

Register to vote in person at the Clerk's Office through 8 pm on Election Day

Clerk's Office is located at 827 N Zeeb Rd
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5 pm

SPECIAL HOURS FOR THE WEEKEND BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

Saturday, October 31, 9 am - 2 pm
Sunday, November 1, 11 am - 3 pm

ELECTIONS UPDATE

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

This has been an exciting year to work in elections in Michigan and in Scio Township. Elections this year have broken records for voter turnout and absentee voting. For example, almost three times as many voters participated in the recent August 4 State Primary election as participated in the equivalent election in 2016. And whereas earlier elections, especially those prior to the 2018 change to the State Constitution allowing universal absentee voting, saw fairly low participation via mail-in ballot, fully 86 percent of those who voted in the August 2020 election did so via absentee ballot. Participation in the upcoming November 3 Presidential Election is expected to outstrip 2016, and while many voters are planning to vote absentee, **all of our 8 polling places will be open as usual on Election Day, from 7 am to 8 pm, and fully staffed with knowledgeable, experienced, local election inspectors.** See the back of this newsletter to locate your polling place.

Turnout in such large numbers, and numbers skewed so heavily in favor of absentee voting, require a lot of careful planning and preparation. With the onset of the pandemic, Clerk Jessica Flintoft sent out absent voter ballot applications to every registered voter in the Township, and invited

voters to step up to the important work of being an election inspector—and Scio residents stepped up in amazing numbers! In addition to training new election inspectors, and updating the training of returning inspectors, **the Clerk's Office has focused on providing a safe voting environment for workers and voters alike.** Clerk Flintoft ordered gallons of hand sanitizer, cartons of wipes, masks and visors, coordinated the creation of see-through barriers to place between voters and workers, and combed through every aspect of the voting and vote-counting processes looking for ways to

minimize the possible spread of the virus. We also purchased a bigger Official Ballot Drop Box with improved signage to accommodate the increase in absentee ballots returned by hand.

A few last words about the August 2020 election: When 7 positions on the Board of Trustees are up for grabs at the same time and fully 13 candidates throw their hats in the ring, you know you are looking at an engaged electorate. And when someone from the public comes in to Township Hall *every single day* to make sure we have enough election workers (not to mention the phone and email inquiries), you know you are working in a dynamic civic environment. **We in the Clerk's Office are proud to serve such a vibrant, democratically-engaged population.**

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT THE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:

It will be another long ballot, with local, state, and federal candidates and issues. If you are going to the polls, study up ahead of time and bring your notes with you to minimize time in the voting booth. Due to

6-foot spacing recommendations we are placing fewer booths at most polling places so please plan your time accordingly should a line form.

For those of you voting absentee, you can track your ballot using the Michigan.gov/Vote website. Absent voter ballots were mailed out the third week in September. If you haven't received your ballot by the middle of October, please come to Township Hall with your photo ID to request a replacement ballot. Absentee ballot applications are filled within 24 hours of receipt in the Clerk's Office. **If you are not able to come to Township Hall to retrieve or**

Located next to the front door of Township Hall, this secure Drop Box is a great way to deliver your voted ballot to the Clerk's Office, as well as make utility and tax payments.



replace your ballot, please call the Clerk's Office at 734/369-9400. We are committed

to do whatever is humanly possible to facilitate your right to vote.

Two state-wide proposals to change the Constitution have been announced for the November ballot: one would require a search warrant to access a person's electronic data or communications. The other would allocate money from oil- and gas-mining on state-owned lands to fund development and

maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreation facilities. There will also be a county-wide millage proposal to fund the purchase and maintenance of nature preserves. To read the full proposals, go to Michigan.gov/Vote and choose the tab "Your Voter Information" to View a Sample Ballot.

GRATITUDES ELECTION-STYLE

Thank you to the many Scio voters who stepped up to the Clerk's challenge to become Election Inspectors. Special thanks goes to our Polling Places: Scio Farms, Polo Fields, Scio Community Church, and Washtenaw Intermediate School District—who provide the essential element to in-person voters: a place to cast their vote!

FIGHT DISINFORMATION!

Use only the Secretary of State website Michigan.gov/Vote or call Scio Township 734/369-9400 as your sources of accurate voting information.

LOOKING FOR ELECTION RESULTS?

The County and Secretary of State will report unofficial results shortly after the close of the polls on election day, but due to large numbers of absentee ballots, final results statewide may not be available until later.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

C OVID-19 continues to have an impact on the operations of the Fire Department. We are responding on suspected cases with regularity and have several homes in the community with confirmed cases. Fortunately, most of the suspected cases only meet screening criteria (cough or fever) and do not turn out to be actual infections. To date, none of your fire fighters has tested positive for COVID, and we continue to take precautions both on- and off-duty.

Unfortunately, due to executive orders and best

practices related to the COVID pandemic, we will be unable to host our annual Halloween party this year. This event typically brings 500 or more people to the Fire Station for fun, games, and prizes. We are already planning next year's event, and hope to see everyone then.

We are working on recruiting part-time and paid-on-call fire fighters to supplement the full-time staff. The Department is currently short four personnel, and hope to have those positions filled soon. We recently started using a regional recruitment company that allows us to draw

BY ANDREW HOUE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

from a wider pool of candidates to get the best possible fit for Scio.

As discussed elsewhere (see "From the Supervisor's Desk"), we are looking forward to the start of much-needed renovations to the Fire Station. We hope that as soon as the exterior renovations are complete, we can jump right into the interior portion of the project, completely modernizing the building and making better use of the space.

APPLY TO SERVE ON A TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE!

I f you would like to get more involved in Township governance, send an email or letter in which you state your interest and explain your background and qualifications. Include a resume if possible. Send an email to both Clerk Jessica Flintoft, jflintoft@sciotownship.org and Supervisor Jack Knowles, jknowles@sciotownship.org. Send letters to Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Attn: Kristy.

BELOW IS A PARTIAL LIST OF THE CURRENT BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER COMMITTEES:

- Board of Review – considers property assessments
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – improves the business district
- Planning Commission – revises master plan & zoning, reviews development proposals
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) – interprets and adjudicates zoning ordinance

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

- Local Roads Advisory Committee – advises on condition of roads and priorities for repair
- Land Preservation Commission (LPC) – implements the land preservation millage
- Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP) – plans non-motorized transport, such as pathways
- Parks Advisory Board (PAB) – plans for parks and nature preserves



PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners is looking for candidates to appoint to a slate of positions on various Boards, Committees, and Commissions. The Board of Commissioners will make these appointments at its upcoming session on November 18, 2020 at 6:45 pm. Candidate resumes received by November 6 will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for its consideration on November 18. The appointments will become effective January 1, 2021. To view a list of all Washtenaw County boards/committees/commissions, please visit secure.ewashtenaw.org/bocdob/bocdob.do. Interested individuals should apply online at ewashtenaw.formstack.com/forms/board_application. If there are any questions, please contact Edwin Peart at 734/222-6655 or pearte@washtenaw.org.

SWEARING-IN NOVEMBER 20

The public is welcome to observe newly elected officers and trustees sworn in on November 20 at Township Hall.

Many thanks to our retiring Board members and welcome to the newly elected and incumbents!

COPING WITH COVID-19

TENDER-HEARTED WOMEN

BY ROSALIE DENENFELD
SCIO RESIDENT

confined by Pandemic are we
come together each in her own lair
we Zoom into the secret depths
of deprivation, longing, revelation,
joy and celebration
offer quotes, quips that help us
"get a grip"
grateful are we that at least we can see
into the souls of sister faces
during this phase
devoid of physical embraces

PLANNING TO VISIT A STATE PARK?

Camping, hiking, boating and other outdoor activities at State parks are all great activities for the fall. Before you plan your next outdoor adventure, check out [Michigan.gov/DNRClosures](https://www.michigan.gov/DNR/closures) to get the latest information on park amenities and availability.

WHAT I DID DURING THE COVID SHUTDOWN

BY MELINDA BERN, SCIO RESIDENT

What I did in my downtime is relax, rest, read and reset. Asking myself "what is truly important to me that I have not had time to do?" I discovered how much fun it is to let go of the need to be "on the go." I played the piano, meditated, walked, rode my bike, spent time with my husband, and enjoyed coloring! I was surprised by how much fun it is to color. The title of my coloring book is "Asian Prints" and I have whittled away many hours coloring in pure joy and delight.

Do you have some wisdom to share about life under COVID-19? How have you been coping with all the many changes to daily life in 2020? Send your thoughts to the Editor, Scio Township Community Report, 827 N Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, or or send an email to Newsletter@sciotownship.org.



RECREATE SAFELY

As you head outdoors this fall, take extra steps to help slow the spread of the coronavirus:

- Keep It Local: If the parking lot at your destination is crowded, find a less-crowded local spot nearby
- Maintain Social Distancing at all times: At least 6 feet away from people outside your household
- Wear a Mask: Inside public spaces, and outdoors when social distance cannot be maintained
- Bring Hand Sanitizer (containing at least 60 percent alcohol) to use after touching shared surfaces
- Know before You Go: Check for park closures and other restrictions before you head out
- Go Out Only If You Are Feeling Healthy

Have fun, be safe, be smart, and stay well. Source: Michigan DNR



HALLOWEEN PARTY POSTPONED

Every year for more than 30 years the Scio Township Fire Department has hosted a Halloween Party featuring clowns, farm animals, and of course LOTS of candy. The fire fighters love offering this treat to local families and look forward to doing so again as soon as it is safely possible.



SCIO TOWNSHIP GOVERNANCE ACADEMY

During September and October, Scio Township is holding 90-minute educational sessions for residents about the powers, duties, and services of Scio Township in an effort to encourage more participation in our local governance. All sessions, past and future, may be viewed by going to [sciotownship.org](https://www.sciotownship.org).

PARKS AND PATHWAYS MILLAGE APPROVED

BY DAVID READ, TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

On August 4, 73 percent of voters approved the Scio Township Parks and Pathways millage. This level of support is similar to that of the Land Preservation millage, which Scio voters approved in the past—twice! Over the years, the Land Preservation millage has allowed the Township, through the work of the Land Preservation Commission (LPC), to protect almost 1,500 acres of farmland and open space. Select parcels are owned by the Township and have been set aside for the purpose of passive and active recreation. However, other than the Sloan Preserve, development of these properties has been limited by lack of funding.

In the last eighteen months, the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) has developed a plan to provide access to three additional Preserves: Scio West Preserve (off of Dino Drive), West Liberty Preserve (off of West Liberty Road) and Marshall Preserve (at the corner of Zeeb and Marshall Roads). These plans include amenities similar to those available at the Sloan Preserve—a small, unpaved parking lot and a nature trail. There is also a plan to provide some basic recreational

activities at Township Hall Park behind Township Hall on Zeeb Road.

In addition, the Transportation Alternatives Planning committee (TAP) has developed a concept for a system of pathways that will connect residents with area assets such as Scio parks and preserves, shopping, and bus transportation, with minimal or no use of a car! The concept centers on the Zeeb Road Pathway, at the center of the Township, and radiates toward the four corners to connect residents:

- To Scio West Preserve in the SW quadrant of the township
- To Dexter and recreation opportunities in the NW quadrant
- From the more densely populated SE quadrant to Township center and into Ann Arbor
- In the future a potential connection to the Brokaw Nature Center in the NE quadrant.

The Board of Trustees will engage the public for their input as we further define the pathway concepts and set priorities. The specifics of this process will be listed on the Township website and in this newsletter when set.



Until now, all of these plans were on hold due to lack of funding—but that all changed on August 4. Passage of the Parks and Paths millage will enable the Township to complete the work to provide access to the preserves and to continue the Zeeb Road Pathway north towards the Huron River and the Border-to-Border trail (B2B). Pathway prep will begin this fall and construction on the next 1,500 feet is planned for spring 2021. Many thanks to our Zeeb Road neighbors who have granted easements for the Pathway—it will be a great Township asset! Hopefully by 2023 we'll have the Zeeb Road Pathway connected to the B2B, work will have begun on another of the planned pathways, and we will have improved access to all of our parks and preserves.

The funds provided by this millage will also enable the Township to apply for grants to assist in park and pathway development. This is an exciting time for nature-loving Scio residents. Each of these projects will take time to complete—years in fact. But with careful planning and the funds that Scio Township voters approved in August, we can begin to make progress on our residents' desire for accessible green spaces and non-motorized paths to get to them.

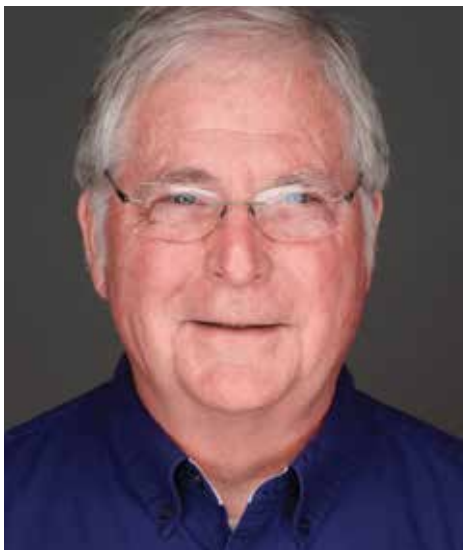


Haas Conservation Easement

FOND FAREWELL

2020 has seen many changes in our world and in Scio Township, not least in our governing Board of Trustees. Every four years all the Township's governing positions come up for election, and in the August primary a healthy field of 13 candidates was whittled down to 9, who will appear on the ballot in the November 3 General Election. In the summer issue of this newsletter we said goodbye and expressed our gratitude to Irwin Martin and Christine Green, two trustees who are retiring from public office, and to Jack Knowles, retiring supervisor. In this issue we add Trustee David Read to the list of those we are reminded to thank for their service. David first got involved with township governance in 2005, when he volunteered to proof-read the Township Newsletter (then called "Scio Info") for typos. Before long he had taken over the editorship—still unpaid. In 2010, he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees and in 2012 he was elected to that position for the first time.

During his ten years on the Board, David has been a passionate advocate for land preservation, conservation, and restoration. He is currently chair of the Parks and Paths Legislation Committee, which is setting out enabling ordinances and resolutions that will establish how the funds that accrue from the recent passage of the Parks and Paths millage will be spent. **And he is ready to**



pass the torch to a younger generation of civic-minded folks willing to share their energy and expertise with their local government. He stated: "The first job of an effective manager is to train your replacement." To that end, he urged Scio residents in their prime to step up to learn the ropes and help shape the future of our township through service on the Land Preservation Commission, the Transportation Alternatives Committee, the

BY MARY GILLIS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Downtown Development Authority, the Planning Commission, or one of the other advisory committees to our governing Board. The process is simple: write a letter or email to the Supervisor and Clerk outlining your background and interests, and in what committees you are interested.

Throughout his career with the Township, David has been known for his outspoken views and his fiscal hardheadedness. Former Clerk Nancy Hedberg wrote: "I will greatly miss hearing David Read's voice at the Board. He worked tirelessly to bring fiscal responsibility to the fore and was the person who pulled together budgets for many, many committees at the Township." But to hear David tell it, he has had "a lotta fun" and "met a lotta nice people" while wearing many different hats around Township Hall, from newsletter editor and website manager to Deputy Clerk and Trustee. He concluded: Let my experience serve as "a clarion call" to the next generation of Scio residents to get involved in their local government.

2021 WATERSHED PRINT CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

The communities of the Huron River watershed have come together to produce another spectacular calendar that features stunning Huron River photography, stormwater pollution prevention tips, and local resources to inspire you to enjoy and protect our beloved river. You can get your free 2021 Huron River Watershed Community Calendar at the front counter in Township Hall in October.



MULCH AWAY

There's much to be said for mulch. Leaves and grass that end up in waterways add excess nutrients and use up valuable oxygen as they decompose. However, with the help of a lawnmower, you can use leaves and grass clippings as a natural fertilizer and keep them on your lawn. Where they belong.



PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON PROPOSED GELMAN SETTLEMENT

As most of you know, the Gelman site on Wagner Road is contaminated with 1,4-Dioxane, and the plume of 1,4 Dioxane has migrated to the east and to the west of the site. Several years ago Scio Township joined with Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor, and the Huron River Watershed Council to intervene in a legal process to develop a revised Consent Judgment that will govern the continued clean-up of the Gelman site.

There has been significant public interest in increasing the on-going clean-up efforts, but until late this summer the process of revising the Consent Judgment was subject to a Court Confidentiality Order that prohibited the parties from disclosing publicly any information about the negotiations. On Monday, August 31, 2020, Washtenaw County Trial Court Judge Timothy Connors partially lifted the Confidentiality Order. That order allows for the following documents to be made public for review and comment:

- Seven short videos providing summary explanations of the proposed settlement

- A proposed 4th Amended Consent Judgment with Attachments
- A proposed Order of Dismissal
- Proposed Settlement Agreements
- A summary and chart that identify and show key differences between the current 3rd Amended Consent Judgment and the proposed 4th Amended Consent Judgment, and
- A redlined comparison of the 4th Amended Consent Judgment against the existing 3rd Amended Consent Judgment

These documents are available via an online repository developed by the intervening parties. The repository is available at a2gov.org/gelmanproposedsettlementdocs.

At this time, all documents are proposed and have not yet been considered for action by Scio Township or the other intervenors. The Scio Township Board of Trustees will review these proposed documents before making its decision whether to approve the terms of the new Consent Judgment. The Board heard public

BY CHRISTINE GREEN AND
KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEES

comment on the proposed settlement documents at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 22. Scio and the Intervenor held a joint public hearing, with experts present to answer questions about the proposed settlement on September 24. Scio will hold its own public hearing after the joint hearing to receive additional comments from the public, on a date yet to be determined. The location and date of that meeting will be announced on the front page of the Township website, sciotownship.org, as soon as it becomes available. Other intervenors will hold their own public hearings, which will be announced by the respective local governments.

Residents are encouraged to submit comments and questions in writing as soon as possible in order to have your questions answered at the public hearing. **Note that the Board could vote on the settlement as early as October 13.** Please email comments or questions regarding the proposed Gelman settlement documents to Clerk Jessica Flintoft at jflintoft@sciotownship.org.

WATER QUALITY IN SCIO

The EPA and Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) require water utilities to annually report results of water monitoring that occurs throughout the year. The report for 2019 was published in July and the results are in: "Your water met all EPA and EGLE drinking water health standards." Of particular interest to our residents on Ann Arbor water may be the results of 1,4-Dioxane and PFAS testing. According to the Scio Township Water Quality Report: "1,4-dioxane was detected in the drinking water at 0.030 ppb, a concentration much lower than any EPA risk levels." As for PFAS chemicals, the city of Ann Arbor's "finished water goal of less than 10 ppt ... exceeds those standards proposed by the State of Michigan," and has been "consistently" met since 2019, when the City adopted "the best available technology for removing PFAS in drinking water." To find out more, pick up a copy of the Water Quality Report at Township Hall or look it up on the Township website: sciotownship.org under the tab Government/Utility Department.



LEVERAGING FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS TO OFFSET DECLINES IN STATE REVENUE

A significant portion of Scio Township's General Fund comes from unrestricted state shared revenue. State shared revenue consists of constitutional and statutory payments. Constitutional revenue sharing is based on sales tax revenue while statutory revenue sharing payments are set in the state's annual appropriations. Michigan's local communities are already experiencing significant declines in state shared revenue. In order to offset this steepening projected decline, our Finance Manager, Fire Chief, and Clerk are actively pursuing all funding opportunities made available by the State through its allocation of federal monies from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020.

CARES ACT GRANT PROGRAMS SCIO TOWNSHIP IS PURSUING

Treasurer's Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program reimburses certain payroll expenditures incurred during April and May 2020. The Township has applied to the State for reimbursement of our fire fighters' time, and to the County for reimbursement of the cost of contracted patrol services provided by Sheriff's Office.

Pending are **\$173,776 to Fire Fund** and **\$221,616 to General Fund**

Treasurer's First Responder Hazard Premiums Pay Program provides grant funding for our fire fighters who performed hazardous duty related to COVID-19, up to \$1,000 per employee.

Pending is **\$14,998 to Fire Fund**

Treasurer's Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grants allocated to local governments for replacing their August 2020 revenue sharing payment.

Received **\$15,090 to General Fund**

Secretary of State Reimbursement for Cancelled May 5 Special Election

Pending is **\$1,539 to General Fund**

Secretary of State In-Kind Reimbursement for Expenses for Absent Voter Ballots and Contribution of Supplies for August 4 State Primary Election

Plan to apply for **approximately \$20,000 to General Fund**

Received **\$3,000 in supplies**

Secretary of State Reimbursement for Expenses for Absent Voter Ballots for November 3 State General Election

Plan to apply for **approximately \$22,000 to General Fund**

Secretary of State Contribution to Costs of Additional Election Equipment

Pending **\$11,090 to General Fund**



BY REBECCA MAUTE, FINANCE MANAGER
AND JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

In addition to the relief and reimbursement made available through the CARES Act, we have received \$28,750 reimbursement from the Secretary of State for costs related to the March 10th Presidential Primary Election; \$5,500 in funds from Washtenaw County for costs of additional election equipment; and are awaiting notice of a grant award from the Center for Technology and Civic Life to support the November 3rd General Election.

MORE CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Scio Township has launched a new online billing and payment solution, offering more ways to view and pay your utility and tax bills, including 24/7 phone payments and pay-by-text. Residents can receive and view bills electronically, make a payment with credit/debit card or e-check, and choose to go paperless if they want. A quick, one-time payment can be made without registering or you can create an account to enjoy more features like setting up automatic payments, saving payment information for later use, and viewing history. Go to sciotownship.org and follow the directions at "Look Up My Tax & Utility Info" to set up or make changes to your online bill paying.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO GENE PAYTON, UTILITIES FIELD SUPERVISOR

After 19 years with the Township, Gene Payton is ready to turn off his phone, take off his keys, and spend some well-earned time with his grandkids.

But during those years he has made himself invaluable to the people of Scio Township, even if they have never heard his name. He defines the fundamental work of the Township Utilities Department as the "responsibility to ensure that the community has safe, clean, potable drinking water and that waste is carried away." In pursuit of fulfilling those responsibilities, Gene has found himself in many dangerous situations, the worst of which has gone down in the history of the department as "The Turd Cannon," when he and three other workers were repairing the bypass valve on the Jackson Road Station and the pipe cracked, a disaster Gene swears he will remember to his dying day.

The Jackson Road Station, located on the corner of Zeeb and I-94, is the biggest in the Township, pumping 4 to 5 million gallons of sewage each week. The Utilities Department conducts an array of testing mandated by the state and the EPA, done monthly, quarterly, and annually to maintain the system, clean the sewers, and avoid backups. Backups that are mostly caused by kitchen grease, he wants us all to know, the longest plug of which he ever had to remove was six feet long.

Why would a person continue to enjoy such hard and dangerous work? **It seems that Gene has mostly been motivated by the opportunities it has offered to learn new skills, and above all, to help others.** Ensuring



we all have drinkable water and clear sewers is literally vital work after all. And his advice to the crew he leaves behind? "Never get to thinking you know it all, there's always something new to learn."

Gene's employment history began with clearing ditches in Van Buren Township, but that willingness to learn new things and to help others has given him a long and varied work life: he has been tasked to do everything from digging graves to blowing up mountains. Along the way he has earned the gratitude and respect of everyone who has worked with him. Kristy Aiken, our Office Coordinator says, "Gene always offered to lend a helping hand when he saw I needed it." And Clerk Jessica Flintoft concurred, adding: "He proactively works to fix and improve things big and small, from water

BY MARY GILLIS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

mains to precinct signs." Former clerk Nancy Hedberg added: "his steady, calming demeanor has been an asset to the Township that will be greatly missed." And Gene's former boss, Utilities Director Scott Martin, speaks for many when he says: "Thank you Gene for all your support over the years and happy retirement!"

A LETTER FROM GENE

I want to take a moment to express my thanks to all you great people in Scio Township. Over my 19 years working in the Utility Department, I have had the privilege to meet or talk with many of you. You are all good people and I thank you for your help, kindness, and cooperation.

To my coworkers and the Board of Trustees, it has been my honor to work with all of you. Thank you for your help, friendship, and comradery over the years. Thank you again for your support and prayers two years ago when I fought it out with cancer. I leave at the end of October knowing that Scio Township is in good hands.

My final thought is, learn something new every day and be kind. If you need anything just call me. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gene Payton



GIVE YOUR INPUT TO THE DNR

Veteran trail users in Michigan know the state is richer than most, with 13,000 miles of state-managed trails, thousands of miles of local, county and federally managed trails, and more rail-trail miles than any state in the nation. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which oversees state-designated trails, is asking for input – from trail lovers of all experience levels – on the management and future development of these valuable resources during the month of October. To learn more about the planning process, register for a virtual meeting or complete the online trails survey, please visit the Public Participation tab on the MichiganTrailsPlan.org website.



USEFUL CONTACT INFO

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UTILITIES

In Scio:
Regular business hours (734) 369-9350
After-hours emergencies: (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

For emergencies 911
Business line (734) 655-6001

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Water Resources
Commissioner (734) 222-6860
drains@ewashtenaw.org
County Road Commission (734) 761-1500
wcrc@wcroads.org

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maciejewskij@washtenaw.org

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District 12 – Debbie Dingell (202) 225-4071
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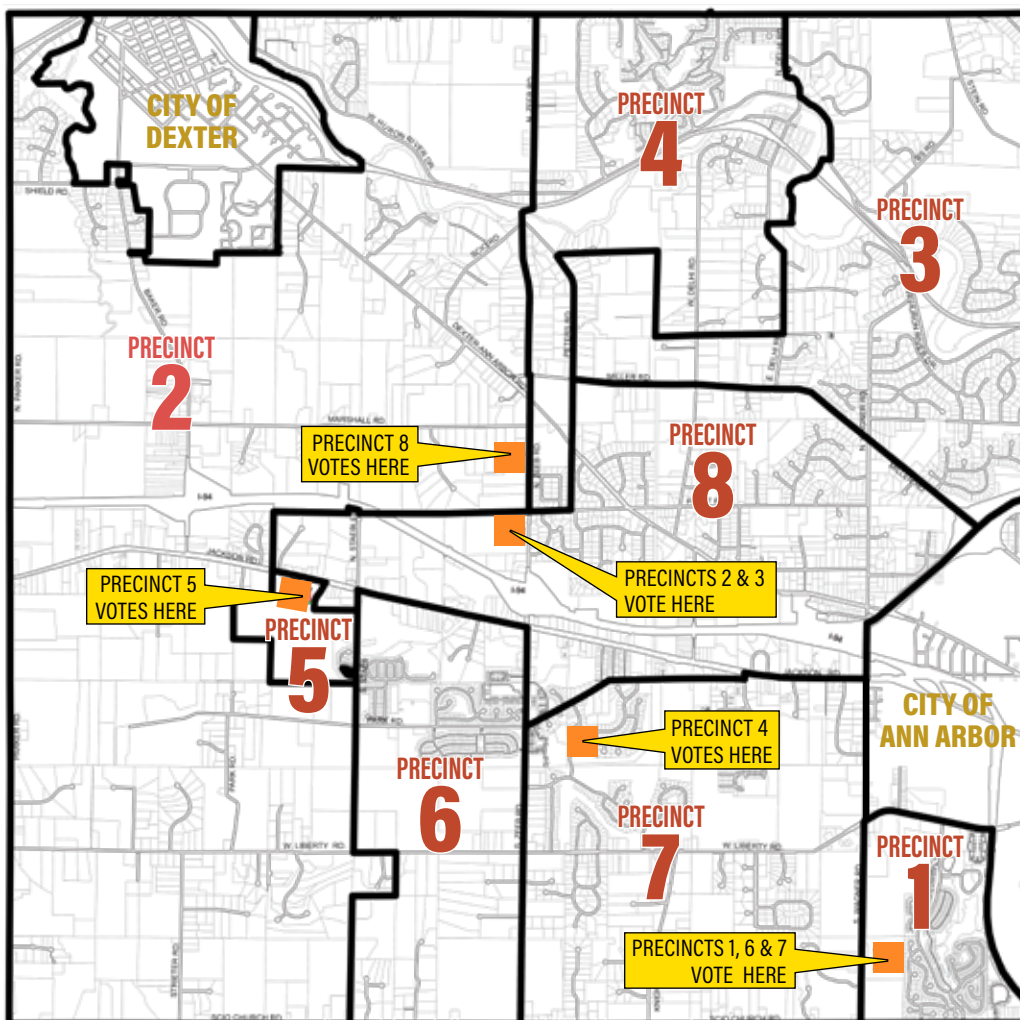


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To Scio Neighbor

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE ON NOV.3? FIND YOURSELF ON THIS MAP!



SCIO TOWNSHIP POLLING PLACES

PRECINCTS 1, 6 & 7

WISD, 1819 S. WAGNER RD.

PRECINCTS 2 & 3

SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL
827 N. ZEEB RD.

PRECINCT 4

POLO FIELDS MAIN CLUB HOUSE
5200 POLO FIELDS DR.

PRECINCT 5

SCIO FARMS COMMUNITY
CLUB HOUSE
6655 JACKSON RD.

PRECINCT 8

SCIO COMMUNITY CHURCH
1293 N. ZEEB RD.

Find your home on this map, mark your precinct number, then look for the flag that indicates where you vote. Note that your polling place may not be the polling place closest to your home.

FIND OUT MORE AT
[MICHIGAN.GOV/VOTE](https://michigan.gov/vote)