

Scio Township

Spring 2019

COMMUNITY REPORT

In this issue:

From The Supervisor's Desk . .	1
Clerk's Corner	3
Buy Nothing Scio . .	3
Road Construction . .	4
Land Use Plan	5
Fire Dept. News	5
Trash & Recycling Update	6
Scio survey results . .	7
Contacts	7
Scio Area events . . .	8
Sign-up for Electronic Delivery	8

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

Congratulations Nancy!

**Nancy Hedberg –
MAMC Clerk of the Year**

It is with great pride that we announce that our clerk, Nancy Hedberg, has been named the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks 2019 Township Clerk of the Year! This is a significant recognition by her fellow township clerks, as there are 1,240 townships in the State of Michigan. The staff at the Scio Township hall, as have countless residents, recognize the special quality that Nancy brings to the clerk position, and it is only fitting that she receive this award to honor her service and commitment to the residents of Scio Township. Congratulations Nancy!

And, So Long...

Talk about going out on a high note! For the past 11 years, we in Scio Township have been very fortunate to have Nancy as our clerk, and that is only partially evidenced by her recent award. However, as the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Sadly, Nancy has decided it's time for her to depart township government, resign her clerk position, and to enjoy the rest of what life has to offer. Nancy has 'paid her dues' and I can think of no one more deserving to take on this new journey.

While everyone knows Nancy as the Township Clerk, I suspect few know that she has been involved in Township activities since 1987, 32 years! Initially hired as a design consultant by the DDA, she worked on a number of DDA



projects, including the Jackson Boulevard project (no it hasn't always been a 4 lane divided road). In 1987 she was appointed to the Planning Commission, and spent 14 years on that body, helping to insure that land development in the Township was accomplished in the best way possible. From 1998 to 2008 she also served on the Board of Review, and finally in the 2008 election, she started her career as Clerk, being re-elected in 2012 and 2016.

In writing this article, I was trying to determine how best I could describe what Nancy has meant to the general operation of the Township and her impact on all of the people around Township Hall. I thought that could best be told by those that work with her on a daily basis.

"When I think of Nancy Hedberg: A Mom, Grandma, Wife, Hard worker, Team player, Motivator, Teacher, co-worker, always wants to help, never said 'no', made the Clerks job perfect, caring of others, will always listen, wants her team to be happy and hardworking and she is my friend. By the way, Nancy, you can't go, all the plants will die."

Scott Martin, Director of Utilities

Congratulations Nancy! continued on page 2

Happy Retirement

Please Join Us

To thank Nancy for all that she has done for the Township, we are holding an Open House on:

Friday, May 17, Noon - 4 pm
Scio Township Hall, 837 N. Zeeb Road

and invite everyone to come out, share your stories, and give her a personal 'Thank You'

**Nancy,
on behalf of the
entire Township,
thank you
for your
dedicated service
and for
everything else
that you have done
for all of us at
Township Hall
and for the
citizens of Scio**

Congratulations Nancy! continued from page 1

"Nancy has an incredible work ethic which has been demonstrated during every election as well as throughout the year. She has a gregarious spirit that never falls short when making anyone feel welcome at the township."

Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator

"I've found her to be a hard worker, with an impeccable work ethic, dedicated to the people of Scio Township. Always with a positive, caring attitude, she's a true team leader, pushing up her sleeves and getting the job done. She's a joy to work with, and always makes you feel appreciated for the job you do."

Shawn Slane, Utilities Department

"INTEGRITY: The quality of being honest and having strong moral character; moral uprightness!

First impressions are lasting impressions, with that being said my first impression of Nancy Hedberg was and remains a person of integrity. Nothing in the past year changed my first impression. I wish Nancy good fortunes in retirement.

Jon Ichesco, Director of Fire Services

"Nancy is a hard-working, dedicated elected official who's focus has always been to do all she can for the betterment of the Township. Her fun-loving, can-do attitude will be missed."

Sandy Egeler, Controller

"I was Nancy's Deputy Clerk for several years. In that time I learned a lot from her. She always had a positive attitude, greeted everyone with a smile and treated them with kindness - even those who didn't deserve it. She was a lot of fun to work with, and respected and acknowledged the efforts of her election inspectors. Her retirement leaves big shoes to fill."

David Read, Trustee

"Where does one begin...smart, funny, upbeat, attractive, always full of life. Nancy, you're the best!"

Matt Knapp, Utilities Department

"Nancy is a leader and someone who is an inspiration about making others better as a result of her presence and has had an impact that lasts. She is one of the most kind, patient, inspiring, helpful persons I know. I thank her for all she has done for us and the Township. I wish her success and great happiness in her next endeavors."

Fran Szuma, Administration

"I will miss her always cheerful and upbeat personality. I always had great talks with her about our lives. She is so upbeat all the time!"

Howard Loughry, Maintenance

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with Nancy. She is a great clerk and a caring person. I will especially miss her at election time. Her caring and consideration on making things easy for all involved was appreciated. I will miss her friendly and wonderful personality."

Eugene Payton, Utilities Department

"Nancy Hedberg is a class act. Always willing to help, assist, suggest and teach. She has the patience of a saint! You could tell when she got impatient/upset with someone by looking at her eyes and the way her mouth was set. However, she always walked away with a smile."

Andrea Garrett, Assessing Department

"I would like to congratulate Nancy on her retirement, and thank her for all the hard work and dedication that she has given to Scio Township and its citizens over the years. I hope this is an opportunity for her to have more time for the things she enjoys such as weaving, enjoying nature and spending time with her family. Her retirement is well deserved, but I will miss working with her and seeing her every day."

Rebecca Maute, Accounting

"Nancy always greets you with a warm, happy disposition. She will be missed!"

Laura Kreps, Township Planner

"Nancy Hedberg is Scio Township's Clerk. And Nancy Hedberg is a star."

"Nancy came to the position of Township Clerk with a strong commitment to public service and with a high priority on customer relationships. Over time her commitment has grown and it shows. This is evidenced by the number of people who visit and call Township offices and ask for Nancy by her first name, and not 'the Clerk'. It is further verified by the fact that she handily won her first election and two successive re-elections.

"It has been my observation in nearly 30 years of government service that the temperament and environment of local government offices is directly related to the attitude of its staff. Scio Township has a positive environment, and Nancy plays an integral role in the fabric of a friendly, welcoming and productive Township administration."

Bryce Kelley, Scio Township Manager

"Scio Township champion, forward thinker and a true planner."

Doug Lewan, Township Planner

"Nancy is the nicest, friendliest, warmest person I've ever worked with. The fact that she also demonstrates the highest levels of integrity and professionalism in every aspect of her work is a bonus. She sets a standard as a clerk that will be hard to match. We will miss her every day."

Mary Gillis, Assistant Clerk

"Having an opportunity to learn from and work with Nancy has been the best part of being Deputy Clerk. She is a tremendous public servant, colleague, and mentor. Her steadfast respect and consistent consideration for all people is a standard for all of us."

Jessica Flintoft, Deputy Clerk

Nancy, on behalf of the entire Township, thank you for your dedicated service and for everything else that you have done for all of us at Township Hall and for the citizens of Scio.

Proposal 3 Changes

We maintain a list of voters who would like to automatically receive an application to vote absentee for every upcoming election

There have been many changes to Election Law since November when Proposal 3 was passed. Here are just a few for your information:

The first thing to know is that if you are already a registered voter, you need do nothing in order to participate in elections going forward. You're all set!

If you are new to Scio Township, recently moved within the Township, or just turned 18, then your voter registration will be automatically updated when you change your Driver's License information with the Secretary of State. If you do not have a driver's license, you can register to vote or change your voter information (address, etc.) at the Clerk's office in the Township Hall or by downloading the relevant form on the Secretary of State's website <https://mivc.sos.state.mi.us/> (Michigan Voter Information Center).

Under the new law, voters may register in person, by mail, or online up to 15 days before an election. If registering in the final 14 days before an election or on Election Day, a voter must register in person and show proof of residency if they expect to vote in that election in their new jurisdiction.

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter ballot by email. Simply scan your signed application and send to Clerk@ScioTownship.org.

Voters may pick up their Absentee ballot from the Clerk as late as the weekend before each election. The Scio Township Hall will be open the Saturday before each election from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., for this purpose.

Permanent Absent Voter Ballot List

One of the changes that took effect after last November's Election was the implementation of "No Reason" Absentee Voting. At Scio we maintain a list of voters who would like to automatically receive an application to vote absentee for every upcoming election. Simply return the

completed application to the clerk's office and a ballot will be mailed to you when the ballots become available. You can then return your ballot either by mail or hand deliver it to the Clerk's office in the Township Hall before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Precinct 5 Voting Returns to Scio Farms Community Clubhouse

Scio Farms Community Clubhouse was the polling location for Scio Township's Precinct 5 voters until it came under construction last year. We're excited to report that the Scio Farms Clubhouse will be welcoming Precinct 5 voters back this year and in 2020. We wish to extend a huge thank you to Accelerate Church and its members for providing a temporary polling place for Precinct 5 voters last year.

Goodbye for Now

At the end of May I will be retiring after having served as Township Clerk since November 2008. In the last 11 years we have made many improvements in the way the Clerk's office operates, how records are stored, updated all the Elections equipment, and changed precinct boundaries to simplify Election Day issues and save costs.

A Township Clerk must be both a generalist and a specialist, with institutional knowledge of an endless list of responsibilities. Clerks have the opportunity to interact with the public more often than most government officials, and in carrying out day-to-day obligations it has been my privilege to serve as a problem-solver, a teacher, a mentor, a resource, and sometimes a referee. What an honor it has been! Thank you for electing me three times to serve as your Clerk.

My husband and I have lived in Scio Township since 1980, raised our family here, and loved being a part of this community. We have seen it grow and change and are proud to have been a part of that. You will still see me out and about in the community, so it is "goodbye for now, but not forever."

BY RICK O'NEILL

Scio Township Buy Nothing Project

New Group for Scio Township Residents Only!

Meet your neighbors. Build Friendships. Strengthen the Community.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint. Gift and Share.

Give. Ask. Be grateful. Scio Township's Hyper-local Gift Economy.

Buy Nothing:

Give freely. Share creatively. Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share among neighbors. Ask for anything you'd like to receive for free or borrow. Keep it legal. Keep it civil. No buying or selling, no trades or bartering, no soliciting for cash. We're an adult-only hyper-local gift economy.

Join Buy Nothing Scio Township today!

Find us at: www.facebook.com/groups/sciotownship



Construction Season Is Here Again

I'm sure everyone is glad to see this unusual winter in our rearview mirror. The winter moisture led to a tough thaw this spring, especially for our nearly 800 miles of county unpaved roads. We are hoping the recent warm and dry weather will continue into May as we catch up on our spring road maintenance.

After a record-setting construction year in Scio Township last year, we are planning a relatively quiet construction season in 2019. This spring, there will be an overlay project on Baker Road to help extend the life of this very busy section of road. Baker Road will remain open to traffic during this project but delays are expected. In addition, thanks to the county-wide road and non-motorized millage passed by Washtenaw County voters in 2016, we will resurface Joy Road on the border with Webster Township this year. Joy Road will be closed to through-traffic during this project. We are also planning chip seal projects on Parker Road and Zeeb Road. Chip seal is like sunscreen for the roads, it helps protect the pavement from sun and water. Chip seal operations usually only take a few hours per road segment.

Stay up-to-date with all of these construction projects by connecting with WCRC:

- Visit wcroads.org for an interactive map of current construction projects, the latest road work advisories, FAQ's and much more.
- Subscribe to email alerts, visit wcroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates/:



Celebrating
100 years
serving the people of
Washtenaw County

WCRC Weekly Road Work Schedule:

Every Thursday during construction season we distribute a weekly road work schedule (typically April – November). This schedule is also posted online: wcroads.org/weekly-road-work-update/

• Township-Specific Road Advisories:

Whenever there is road work on a county road with a major impact on traffic, we will post a road advisory on-line. In addition, this advisory is emailed out to a township distribution list. Anyone can subscribe to receive alerts for one or all townships in Washtenaw County.

• Download the WCRC Fix It App

Once downloaded, users can submit work requests directly to the appropriate WCRC staff member. Once submitted, the requestor can follow the progress of their request through our work system.

• Follow @WashtenawRoads on Facebook and Twitter

- Call us at (734) 761-1500. During the summer, our office is open Monday – Thursday, 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This year is also a very important milestone for everyone at WCRC, it's our 100th anniversary. We are very proud to have served the people of Washtenaw County for the past 10 decades. In celebration of this golden anniversary, we will be sharing stories, photos and memories throughout 2019. The celebration will culminate with an exhibit at the Washtenaw County Historical Society from November 2019 – April 2020. Learn more about this celebration at wcroads.org/100th-anniversary.

Please contact us if you have questions about your roads or the projects planned in 2019. We look forward to serving the community for another 100 years!



Joy Road between Mast Road and Zeeb Road will be resurfaced this year.

Review and update of the Township Master Land Use Plan

The master plan update process requires forums and a public hearing to take public comment, input, and questions

Scio Township will soon begin the review and update of the Township Master Land Use Plan adopted in February of 2009. The current plan is nearing the end of its 5-year life and must be reviewed and updated if necessary in order to be considered a valid plan and in compliance with Michigan's Planning Enabling Act. As conditions and circumstances change, so do opportunities and expectations for the future. It is therefore essential to periodically update the information contained in the Master Plan as well as to re-evaluate its basic vision and implementation programs.

"The Scio Township Master Land Use Plan articulates a vision for the Township's future growth and development. It is the primary official Township document which sets forth growth and development policies for the future of the community. The Township derives its authority for the preparation of a Master Plan from Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended. MCL 125.3833 states: A master plan shall address land use and infrastructure issues and may project 20 years or more into the future."

Also referred to as the comprehensive plan or the master plan or the Township land-use plan, this document is designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government, its residents and businesses. This includes guidance on how to make decisions on public and private land development proposals, the expenditure of public funds, availability of tax policy (tax incentives), cooperative efforts and issues of pressing concern, such as farmland preservation or the rehabilitation of older neighborhood areas.

The master plan update process requires forums and public hearings to take public comment, input, and questions. Once the Township has prepared the master plan public hearings will be scheduled. Dates will be published on the Township website, Planning Commission agendas, and Board of Trustee agendas.

BY BRYCE KELLEY, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Scio Township Fire Department News

In September 2017, Scio Township accepted a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency (SAFER) grant for the purpose of conducting a staffing needs and risk assessment of the Township's fire response area.

The SAFER grant program was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide funding directly to fire departments to help maintain or increase the number of trained front-line firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the 2017 Scio Township SAFER grant was to understand the scope of required future resources to respond to increased calls for service. New growth and investment in Scio Township were the drivers for the study. Serving only as a guide, the study will assist the Township in the planning for increased fire service needs and compliance with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).

In January of 2019 three new full-time fire fighters were hired. The organizational structure of the Department has been changed from 6 full-time staff with the equal rank of shift commanders to 9 full-time staff of three captains, three lieutenants and three full-time firefighters.

In addition, a search for a full-time fire chief will soon be underway. Once the new fire chief is in position additional staffing may include a position to establish and manage a fire prevention and inspection program, establishing a part-time Fire Safety Inspector position, and create a full-time administrative assistant position for the fire department to provide support and consistency to administrative and operational activities.

Lastly the Township is assessing it's fire station facility. With more full-time staff and a 30 year old building that is in need of repairs and updating, an internal team is reviewing options and recommendations from an experienced public safety design team. More information on this relative to plans, funding and timelines will be forthcoming.

In the summer of 2018, the study was completed. Since that time the Fire Department has taken some forward steps.



Trash & Recycling Project Status Update

The Township's website will have a tab with the latest updates and related information on trash and recycling services



As the Township begins final preparations for the start of its Trash and Recycling services for residential customers there is information and actions that you can take that will help make the transition smoother for you.

The Township's website will have a tab with the latest updates and related information on the service. Please refer to this tab for the start of service, any updates and helpful FAQ's about the service. You will also be able to send emails to the Township with your questions and comments.

In addition you are encouraged to enroll in the Township's Email List. The Township will use this email list to send direct notices, notifications and weather-related disruptions affecting pickup schedules directly to your email address. If you are already a member of the Email List there is no need to enroll again. Otherwise you can enroll in the Email List by going to the Scio Township website homepage, sciotownship.org. On the right side of the homepage near the bottom there is a tab titled "Subscribe to Our Email List". Click on the tab and the enrollment process is easy, just your email address and name. You will then automatically receive emails from the Township.

In April notices were sent to the Township's residential customers about several public forums that were held in April and early May with Township staff and GFL rep-

resentatives. If you were not able to attend, please refer to the Township website or contact the Township for this information. More of these public forums may be scheduled as the need arises. Also, mailers will be sent to you over the course of the year with handy information on trash, recycling and yard waste.

The service will begin on or about August 1, 2019. If you have a contract with a current provider when the service starts you have some options moving forward:

1. If you have a contract that extends beyond the date GFL will start, you may continue that contract up to one year until it expires. After that you will be required to opt-in to the Township program.
2. If your provider has informed you that they will end services before GFL starts you are free to contract with another provider until GFL begins service.
3. Or you may call GFL to set up services for your home. GFL has made arrangements to expedite an early conversions for Scio Township residents.
4. And if you have more questions please contact the Township at 734-369-9400 or email: bkelly@sciotownship.org

BY ANITA DALEY

Survey Says...Scio Is On It!

In late 2017, HRWC (Huron River Watershed Council) sent a survey out to over 700 residents in the Honey Creek (mostly Scio) area to find out what residents think about their water resources, how they value them, what they know about water quality issues, and what they are willing to do to protect them. Most respondents said that scenic beauty and outdoor activities like kayaking and picnicking were the most important activities among those listed. Just over 95% of respondents believe that it is their personal responsibility to help protect water and over 90% believe the quality of life in their community depends on good water quality. Furthermore 89% think that it's important to protect water even if this slows economic growth. While appreciation of local water and acknowledgement that our activities on land can impact water quality rated high, results varied when it came to respondents understanding specific threats. For example, when asked about bacteria in the water, 47% of respondents said they don't know if this is an issue for their area.

HRWC did extensive chemistry and flow monitoring of Honey Creek and found e.Coli to be a primary issue for water quality. Most respondents in the survey say they maintain their septic tanks and pick up after their pets. Since

we found e.Coli in the water we will be doing outreach this year to encourage these two activities. Most residents care about water quality issues, acknowledge their role in addressing them, and are willing to do activities to protect local water if they are not doing them already.

To learn more about the project, go to hrwc.org/honeycreek. If you'd like a copy of the survey report, please contact adaley@hrwc.org

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.



HRWC did extensive chemistry and flow monitoring of Honey Creek and found e.Coli to be a primary issue for water quality



Get involved in your community

Sign-up to receive the Scio Township Newsletter electronically!

Email:
"newsletter@
sciotownship.org"

Scio Township Information

Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(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

Jack Knowles, Supervisor – jknowles@sciotownship.org
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk – nhedberg@sciotownship.org
Donna Palmer, Treasurer – DEpalmer@sciotownship.org
Christine Green, Trustee – CGreen@sciotownship.org
Kathleen P. Knol, Trustee – kknol@sciotownship.org
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 resi-
dents of Scio Township.

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Administrative Clerk

Other Phone Numbers

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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@wccroads.org

County Commissioners:

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski
maciejewskij@washtenaw.org

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(855) 627-5052; DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov

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(517) 373-2420; senltheis@senate.michigan.gov

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BY BRYCE KELLEY, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mark your calendars!

Dexter-Ann Arbor Run, June 1, 2

www.runsignup.com/Race/MI/Dexter/DXA2

Greek Festival, June 7-9

www.annarborgreekfestival.org

11th Annual Jackson Road Cruise, June 8

www.jrcruise.org

Rolling Sculpture Care Show, July 12

mainstreetannarbor.org/rolling-sculpture

Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, July 18-21

www.artfair.org

Dexter Daze, August 9, 10

www.dexterdaze.org

**White Lotus Farms,
Visit the Farm on Saturdays, 9:30-2:00**

www.whitelotusfarms.com



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Help us save money and resources.
Receive electronic "delivery" of this newsletter.

Go to our website: sciotownship.org and then
"subscribe to our email list" button on the right
hand menu. Remember to use your Mail Code
(Example: SMIT1234MAINST), which can be
found on this newsletter's label.

