



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

The new Board of Trustees was sworn in on November 20, 2020 by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.

We faced an immediate decision about a long-term problem, the pollution of Scio's groundwater caused years ago by Gelman Sciences, Inc. Readers of this newsletter

know that Gelman, located on Wagner Road in Scio Township, generated 1,4 Dioxane, a likely carcinogen, as a byproduct of its manufacturing process. Starting in the 1960s, Gelman disposed of this waste into the natural environment in the vicinity of its plant. The pollution was first detected and reported in the mid-1980s. The contamination of the site has spread through the underground aquifer to an area that is now over four miles long and a mile wide.

The prior Township Board of Trustees was faced with a vote on the court settlement that had been negotiated over the past several years in a case brought against Gelman by the State of Michigan. The Township is an intervenor in that case along with Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor, and the Huron River Watershed Council. The settlement agreement, referred to as the 4th Amended Consent Judgment (or "CJ"), was presented as an "up or down vote" with a looming court deadline. All seven members found the CJ to be flawed but eventually voted 4-3 to approve it with an amendment to express

their non-support for dumping huge amounts of treated groundwater into the First Sister Lake located at Jackson and Parklake Avenues.

After the November election, the newly elected Scio Township Board of Trustees took a fresh look at the Gelman issue. We saw that the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County were now opposed to the CJ and considering making a request for intervention by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2016, Scio Township had, together with Ann Arbor Charter Township and the Sierra Club, petitioned for EPA oversight of the Gelman cleanup but neither the City nor the County supported EPA involvement at that time. With their current support, we realized that an attempt to enlist the EPA will likely be more successful. United, we can hope to get support from Governor Whitmer in our petition for EPA involvement.

At its first meeting on 11/24/20, the new Scio Township Board of Trustees rescinded the prior board's vote. Then, on 12/8/20 the Board of Trustees approved a resolution that did two things: 1) rejected the 4th Amended Consent Judgment and 2) reaffirmed the Township's support for EPA Superfund designation of the Gelman site. **The resolution includes a list of 19 items that have been raised as concerns by members of the public with regard to the proposed plan for remediating the dioxane contamination.** These deficiencies are the

basis for the Township's rejection of the consent judgment.

Scio Township's action on 12/8/20 re-establishes a "two-track" approach: the court process and the renewed petition for EPA intervention. We will pursue the court case while simultaneously petitioning for EPA Superfund designation. We will present our arguments to Washtenaw County Circuit Judge Connors in early 2021. The Board of Trustees will continue to closely monitor the Gelman situation and take action whenever there is an opportunity to advocate for the residents of Scio Township.



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INTRODUCING YOUR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, 2020-2024

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR



Will is an Ann Arbor native and comes to the role of Township supervisor after a career in state and federal government, public education, and non-profit organizations. He has previously served the Township on the Planning Commission (2011-present), as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee, and the Master Plan Steering Committee. The common thread through this work has been improving access to nature preserves, and the creation of public parks and a system of pathways so that people can safely move around the Township without using a car. As supervisor, he is responsible for nominations to all Township boards and commissions and is committed to recruiting diverse appointees. He is enthusiastic about involving more residents in planning for Scio Township's future. All levels of government are coping with challenges such as the current pandemic and global warming. The Gelman dioxane contamination is a long-term, daunting problem on the local level. Will is optimistic that we can work together with our neighbors and make real progress toward addressing all of these challenges. Scio Township can become a healthier, safer place to be a pedestrian and coincidentally help to keep our planet from overheating.

JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK



Raised in nearby Chelsea, Jessica lived out of state for 20 years before returning to the area with her young family so that her children could live closer to their grandparents. She has deep roots in the area—her earliest German ancestors immigrated to Scio nearly 200 years ago. Jessica has always worked in public service—to end

homelessness, reform criminal justice systems, and put those most impacted by policies into policy-making positions. Here at Scio Township, Jessica is highly motivated to implement good governance principles—so that residents have many ways to hold her and other Township officials to account...not just once every four years. She says, "Our Township governance must mature—especially in this moment of pandemic, income inequality, climate crisis, and reckoning with racism—we have to institute real democratic accountability." Jessica is committed to holding herself and her fellow Township officials directly responsible for Township actions by ending the use of the "manager model"—a single political appointee of the Board tasked with a broad consolidation of duties. Further, Jessica wants to invest in hiring, training, and developing our Township staff, and reduce the privatization of Township services where it is cost-effective to do so. And she is ambitious for our township: "My goal is for our township to become one of the most excellent local governments in the country."

DONNA E. PALMER, TREASURER



Donna has been elected to the job of Township treasurer nine times since she was first appointed in 1987. Needless to say, she has seen the Township grow and change enormously over the past thirty years as Treasurer and even more, over the past 60-plus years as a resident. Donna has deep roots in the community, having moved here when she married in the 1950s, raised her children here, and now some of her grandchildren live here. In general, the role of township treasurer is focused on collecting taxes and managing those monies responsibly and with efficiency. She states: "I never cease to take my investment responsibility seriously, always working with advisors who know the law for public monies." She considers herself

a team player—not a politician—and is looking forward to working with this new board. Donna considers her interactions with residents one of the joys of her job. And her long history in the community and its governance gives her added responsibility as someone who carries the history and background of contemporary issues in her head. She says, "I know what's been tried before and why we do things the way we do now." Her goal for this next term on the Board is to increase transparency into the Township's financial health by continuing a move toward greater automation and continuous improvements in how taxpayer money is successfully used. But her approach is above all personal. She says, "I like where I live and I'm proud to help keep Scio a pleasant place to live through my work on the Township Board of Trustees."

JACQUELINE COURTEAU, TRUSTEE



Jackie has lived in Scio Township since 2009 and was elected to the position of trustee for the first time in 2020. She is a plant ecologist and science writer with a resume that highlights her ability to think outside the box to promote a lifelong agenda that places education, science, and a love of nature alongside her dedication to public service and, well, having fun. Thus, her work-life has encompassed both helping prepare federal agencies for climate change on the one hand and directing and adapting plays for a local children's theater group on the other. Jackie's work in science policy at the federal level convinced her that to truly make a difference she needed to get involved at the local level. Thus, she took a position on the Township's Land Preservation Commission and then ran for trustee. She stated, "I am interested in climate change and sustainability at all levels" of government, and she believes

that “being a scientist is an asset to working on public policy.” Jackie is vitally interested in hearing from residents about their own concerns and encourages folks to use her Township email to contact her directly. She also hopes to facilitate some socially-distanced, in-person interactions with Scio residents, perhaps exploring Scio’s preserves and emerging parks and pathways. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the residents of Scio Township throughout her term on the Board and takes this service opportunity seriously.

ALEC JEROME, TRUSTEE



Alec comes to Township governance from a long career in facilities with The Henry Ford. He was raised in Washtenaw County and has lived in Scio for over twenty years. Alec has been very active in the civic life of our township, serving on multiple boards and commissions during the 15 years before his election to trustee in 2020 and sees a focus of his work as trustee in extending and augmenting the work of its advisory boards. As a trustee, he seeks to ensure that the protection of valuable natural resources, access to recreation, and business and residential development initiatives are integrated and coordinated with each other. He believes that the efforts of the Land Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee can help guide the Board of Trustees in this area. He states, “This cross-pollination of commissions serves to better utilize limited financial resources and maximize impact.” He is also committed to government transparency and the improvement and delivery of essential services. His goal for his first term on the Board is “to involve residents more proactively in determining the direction of the Township under new Board of Trustees’ guidance. It is important to overlay a management plan for Township

projects that informs residents of when, how, and why we need their input.” He would also like to foster partnerships with other local, state, and federal government agencies that can join in support of Scio plans.

KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE



Kathy has been a resident of Scio Township for over 25 years. She is a retired registered nurse and attorney, previously practicing medical malpractice defense law. She served as Scio Township Clerk from 2004 to 2008 and has served as a Township Trustee since 2016. In the past, Kathy has served on the Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board, the Huron River Watershed Council, Citizens for Oil-Free Backyards, and Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels. As current Township representative to the Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD), a partnership of local governments and citizens, she is part of the effort to address the spreading groundwater contamination known as “the Plume.” Kathy believes that clean water and, specifically, nailing down a clean-up plan for the Gelman Dioxane Plume that benefits Scio are vital issues for this next term of the Board. In addition to protecting and defending clean water sources in Scio, Kathy is committed to supporting ongoing land preservation efforts and the high quality of life enjoyed by Township residents. She is intent on seeing improved transparency and citizen involvement in local government and encourages Township residents to express their concerns by attending Board meetings and getting involved on citizen boards and commissions.

JANE E. VOGEL, TRUSTEE



Jane is retired from management at Ford Motor Company where she worked in the U.S. and Europe to optimize the global product development process. She has roots in Detroit, went to U of M and has lived in Scio with her husband and two daughters since 1998. Since retiring from Ford, Jane has been engaged in climate action and carbon neutrality initiatives in Ann Arbor and at the University of Michigan. Before her election as Trustee in 2020 Jane served on the Land Preservation Commission (LPC), has been the chair of the Transportation Alternatives Planning (TAP) Committee, and works on the Master Plan committee charged with the 2020 update. She is deeply committed to working with others to move Parks and Pathways forward, with the first priority being the completion of the Zeeb Road Pathway connection to Huron River Drive and the Border to Border (B2B) pathway. “Through these experiences I have developed a unique understanding of how our residents, volunteer leaders, and the Township leadership can work together.” To her role as trustee Jane brings a collaborative management style, a keen sense of fiscal responsibility and strong leadership skills.

WELCOME STEVE WYZGOSKI!

The Scio Township Utilities Department and Township staff would like to welcome Steve Wyzgoski, our new Utilities Director, who started with the Township on December 14, 2020. Steve has over 35 years' experience in the water and wastewater field. He comes to us most recently from the City of Saline, where he oversaw a 1.4 million gallon-a-day system that served 9,400 residents. Steve holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Eastern Michigan University and has done



BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

graduate coursework in Environmental Health Science at the University of Michigan. He also holds numerous technical licenses. Steve will work closely with our engineers, consultants, board members, staff, and contractors to serve our residents and make continuous improvements to the Township's systems and maintaining our nascent parks and pathways. Welcome aboard Steve!

TOWNSHIP WATER UTILITIES DURING COVID SHUT-DOWNS

Scio Township Water Utilities department is in full operation throughout all government-mandated office shut-downs. Billing inquiries (734-369-9350) will go to voicemail, which is emailed to department staff for prompt call backs during regular office hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. For water or sewer emergencies (such as flooding, sewer backups, or no water), call 734-651-4770. During government-mandated restrictions, technicians will enter the home only to handle emergencies.

NEW TAX & UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS



PAY ONLINE

sciotownship.org



PAY BY PHONE 855-844-0382

Check your balance or make a payment 24/7



PAY BY TEXT

Get text notifications about your bill and make a payment 24/7

TOP 10 REASONS TO ENJOY WEARING A MASK THIS WINTER

10. It keeps my face warm
9. It warms my breath so the air I breathe isn't so cold
8. It gives me a chance to show my fashion sense/personality
7. I don't have to worry about food stuck in my teeth/bad breath
6. I don't have to cover my mouth when I sneeze
5. Helps hide my facial expression showing how I feel about someone/something
4. Helps me avoid some people by pretending not to recognize them
3. It hides pimples, missing teeth, cold sores...!
2. It makes me look into people's eyes
1. It helps reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Washtenaw County offers a free residential energy conservation program that provides home improvement services to low-income Washtenaw County homeowners and renters. These services can reduce utility expenses by up to 30 percent. Available services include a comprehensive energy audit, repair or replace inefficient furnaces and water heaters, replace old refrigerators, seal and insulate walls, attics, and crawl spaces, and install energy efficient light and fresh air fan systems. Any Washtenaw resident, homeowner or renter, with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level may qualify for the program. Interested? Call (734) 544-3008.



WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I hope that the new year finds everyone safe and looking forward to a more positive 2021. COVID-19 continues to be a challenge for us all, but the Fire Department is meeting that challenge. As everyone knows, cases are skyrocketing throughout the country, and Washtenaw County is no exception. In Scio Township, we are seeing suspected or confirmed positive cases frequently. We continue daily screening of personnel and increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures for our building and vehicles. **As of the writing this article, we have not had a firefighter need to be placed off duty due to an unprotected exposure or confirmed case.** Some of our neighboring departments, however, have had personnel off and operations interrupted by firefighters recovering from COVID. We have helped with responses

when necessary and if the need arises in our community, our neighbors will help us. We are all looking forward to the day when COVID-19 is behind us.

As we start the new year, now is a good time to look around our homes and make sure that we are practicing fire safety. **One of the leading causes of home fires is unattended cooking**, and following a simple rule is something we can all incorporate into our everyday lives: Do not leave a pot or pan on the stove unattended, even for a second. It only takes one minor distraction to forget that you were cooking, and nobody wants to be reminded by their smoke detectors! With winter heating season in full swing, it is also good practice to make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors installed near your furnace, so a faulty heating system can be caught before

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

carbon monoxide spreads throughout the home. As we spend so much of our time asleep, adding a second detector near the bedrooms is another good source of protection.

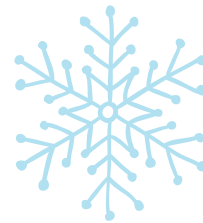
As I write this article the concrete is being poured in front of your Fire Station as exterior renovations continue. COVID has slowed down the project somewhat because some materials have been delayed, including the bay doors. The second phase of the project (interior renovation) will therefore likely begin before the first (exterior renovation) is complete, with a projected completion date for the whole of early July. **Our response to residents' emergencies is unaffected by the ongoing construction**, we continue to adapt to the changing conditions within the Station.

NOTARY PUBLIC AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT AT TOWNSHIP HALL

Call 734-369-9400 for an appointment

TAXES! TAXES! TAXES!

Property taxes are due by close of business day on **February 16, 2021**



ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

Help Wanted: Utilities Technician, entry level. This position can involve working in difficult, often dirty environments, requires strength and dexterity, and a willingness to work out of doors in all weather conditions. On the other hand, you'll love your coworkers! High school diploma required, experience preferred. For a complete job description or to send your resume, contact Steve Wyzgoski, Utilities Director, swyzgoski@sciotownship.org.



h2oheroes
salt less

Shovel your driveway early and often and use environmentally friendly deicers. Keep rivers and lakes healthy with less salty runoff.

Huron River Watershed Council
Learn more at www.hrwc.org/h2oheroes

CLERK'S COLUMN

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

First, a brief re-cap of the last presidential election. By Election Day, November 3, 2020, Scio Township could boast more than 15,000 registered voters, an astonishing 1,000 of whom joined the rolls in 2020. About 79 percent (11,951) of our registered voters participated, which compares favorably to the state overall, where about 74 percent of registered voters participated. (Michigan had the ninth highest rate of voter participation in the US this past November!) For comparison, about 71 percent of our registered voters participated in the presidential election of 2016. 2020 also saw a reversal of earlier voting trends in the Township, in which most people voted in person at the polls and few voted via absentee ballot. **So, whereas the 2016 presidential election saw only 27 percent of us voting absentee, more than 80 percent voted absentee in the 2020 presidential contest.** This reversal quadrupled the number of Absent Voter Counting Boards needed to process these ballots from application through receipt of voted ballot to tabulation on Election Day. The Clerk's Office temporarily expanded in the 2 months prior to November 3, to include trained, vetted Election Inspectors who ordinarily work only on Election Day, and additional equipment and facilities to shelter all those election inspectors counting all those absentee ballots.

Statewide, only a fraction of 1 percent of absentee ballots were rejected, many because they arrived after 8 pm on Election Day. Here in Scio there were only a handful of rejected ballots: 11 arrived after 8pm on Election Day, 5 had signatures that did not match what was on file, 2 had no signatures, and 1 envelope arrived with a City of Ann Arbor ballot inside. I want to thank our extraordinary Elections Team here who did all of what had to be done to make everyone's vote count.

In other news, the Clerk's Office is continuing its efforts to improve and expand the democracy of Scio Township itself. We have many new

appointees to various Township committees and commissions, and I know that the Supervisor is seeking more people interested in serving. **Having a greater number of our residents from all backgrounds and life experiences involved in decision-making processes makes for better decisions.**

We must mature our Township governance to meet the needs of our residents. One part of this process is providing our residents with foundational information about township governance generally, and Scio Township specifically. To that end the Board sponsored the Scio Township Governance Academy, a 14-session educational series for Scio residents this fall. These 90-minute educational sessions cover the powers, duties, and services of Scio Township in an effort to encourage better resident engagement and greater accountability for us all:

General Law Township: Its Power and Organization

Township Finance Fundamentals

Open Meetings Act: In-Person and Virtual Settings

Scio Township Land Preservation Program: A Primer

Basic Concepts of Government Debt and Assessing Tools

The Basics of Property Tax

Township Planning and Zoning: Local Roles, Responsibilities, and Best Practices

Applying Zoning and Planning to Real Life Examples in Scio Township

Michigan's Property Taxes and the Annual Assessment Process: It's Not Just a Revenue Enhancement

Township Fire Services

Introduction to Employment in Scio Township

Township Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Ethics: It Is more than a Conflict of Interest

Economic Development and Taxable Value Growth: Tools, Implications, and Pitfalls

Please tune in to one or more of the 14 sessions, and then be in touch! We want to know your reflections. Scio Township Governance Academy, all available on demand at sciotownship.org

LOCAL ELECTION HEROES

Scio Township should be proud of its contribution to the smooth running of the November 3, 2020 presidential election. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson wrote to clerks across the state, saying in part: "You implemented a major voter referendum, and did so during a global pandemic while facilitating record-breaking voter turnout. You stepped up and met all these challenges, and I thank you." At the county level, Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum enjoined, "I am especially grateful for the help of over 1,500 citizen poll workers, Democrats and Republicans, whose dedicated work made this election process possible." Edward Golembiewski, County Director of Elections added in the same letter to the county's clerks: "Your commitment to ensuring a successful election is reflected by the fact that no significant problems occurred on Election Day. You were prepared for the task at hand and operated precincts and count boards safely. Voters were treated with care and respect (and treated poll workers in-kind)." Scio Clerk Jessica Flintoft concurred, writing in a letter to local election inspectors: "I am so deeply grateful for your work as election inspectors. About 100 of us worked beautifully together to carry out this complex operation with no serious problems." But perhaps Golembiewski put it best when he said, "Thank you for your commitment to your community and to the democratic process."

IN PRAISE OF SCIO POLLING PLACES

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

During these uncertain times, when we can't always count on the things we never doubted would be there for us, it is fitting to spend some time exploring our gratitude for the steadfastness of our Township's Polling Places, **Scio Community Church (Precinct 8), Polo Fields Club House (Precinct 4), Scio Farms Community Club House (Precinct 5), and Washtenaw Intermediate School District (Precincts 1, 6, and 7)**. Michigan law stipulates that polling places be located in non-profit or publicly-owned organizations, or part of a housing complex where at least 150 people reside (MCL 168.661). To serve as a polling place, the location must have adequate parking, be accessible to people with mobility differences, and allow election officials secure access for voting equipment and supplies both the day before (for delivery and set-up) and the day after (for take down), as well as on Election Day, which starts before 6 am and ends whenever the number of ballots issued matches the number of ballots counted. This is a big ask, and **these organizations provide this invaluable service to the voters of Scio Township without charge**. So why do they do it?

For each, it appears that being a polling place is considered essential to being part of the community as a whole. For the management of Polo Fields Club House, which came on board in 2019, the answer to "why do it?" is simple: "We had the availability and we wanted to help." For Scio Community Church, which has been a polling place for about 7 years, service opportunities such as this are part of their mission to be "salt and light" to the community. Ashley Kryscynski, a spokesperson for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, noted that WISD has been serving as a polling place

for at least the last four presidential elections. For this educational service agency, "It's an honor and a privilege that our district's facilities can serve as a polling place where three Scio Township precincts come together to exercise their right to vote."

Having enough space to allow in the public safely is always a concern, and moreso during mandated social-distancing. Over at WISD, Ashley Kryscynski recalled, "We did have concerns about ensuring the health and safety of our visitors, volunteers, and WISD staff for election days, though we were reassured thanks to the thoughtful processes and precautions Scio Township officials had carefully

planned." Bryan Dibble, the manager of Scio Farms manufactured housing community, added: "Sanitizing stations were available and there was room for everyone to social distance while waiting along with mandatory masks. I believe the general consensus is that all went well." Indeed, all did go well in Scio on Election Day (see this issue, "Local Election Heroes," p. 6), despite a surging pandemic, disinformation campaigns, and threats of violence. **Scio voters persevered and their voices were heard, thanks in great part to our civic-minded polling places.** Thank you!

THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Incorporating gratitude into daily life is associated with **lower stress, greater mental resilience, and increased self-esteem**. Sounds like something we all want. How to do it?

Keep a gratitude journal—write down a few things that went well today, however small

Take a gratitude walk—the combination of moving around and thinking about things that make you feel good is unbeatable

Express your gratitude for someone else—the easiest way to feel better is to lift someone else's spirits by letting them know how much you appreciate them

Look for the silver lining—every bad situation brings some positive change that wouldn't have happened otherwise. For example, the dark winter days can be hard to take, but when the sun doesn't rise until 8 am, many of us are awake to watch and enjoy!

REMEMBER...!

Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in good repair and free from ice, snow, and other obstructions. Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleared by 6 pm the following day; snow that accumulates during the day must be cleared by noon the following day.

WELCOME TO THE NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE SCIO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW RESIDENTS!

If you believe someone has discriminated against you in violation of civil rights laws, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, michigan.gov/mdcr, call 800-482-3604, or email MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov.

SUPPP-SCIO UPDATE ON PARKS, PATHS & PRESERVES

BY PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN (PRAB) AND PATRICK SHIELDS (TAP)

Welcome to a new, regular update from two committees working on behalf of the citizens of Scio Township to implement the Parks and Pathways Millage passed by voters on August 4, 2020. **As a result of the millage, work is now actively underway on a network of non-motorized pathways to enable residents to safely walk or bike around the Township and link to Ann Arbor.**

The Transportation Alternatives Planning committee (TAP) and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) work together to create and maintain parks and preserves within our community and ensure they are accessible.

Earlier preservation efforts have focused on identifying endangered properties and protecting them from development. With the passage of the 2020 millage, TAP and PRAB can begin to make some of these shared resources available to everyone. The following list describes six of these properties:

Sloan Preserve – located on Baker Road north of Marshall Road, this preserve is a 50-acre parcel with a parking area and paths throughout. *Currently open to the public.*

Township Hall Park – located directly behind Township Hall, this park consists of a

half-mile loop around a groomed area that is currently used part-time by the Scio Flyers, a model-plane flying group. A kiosk and realignment of the entrance are underway with future amenities anticipated. *The loop is currently accessible and ideal for hiking and walking dogs.*

Marshall Preserve – a 10-acre parcel that will serve as a convenient trailhead for the Zeeb Road Pathway when the parking area is completed.

West Scio Preserve – located at the southern end of Dino Drive, this 124-acre parcel with marked trails offers a pleasant hike through an undeveloped area featuring heavily wooded wetlands with a mix of upland oak-hickory forest and lowland maple. *A parking area and kiosk are currently under construction.*

West Liberty Preserve – located between S. Parker Road and Wildwood Lane, this preserve is a 57-acre parcel that features wetlands, a pond, and prairie areas. *Parking lot and kiosk construction are scheduled for 2021.*

Van Curler Preserve – located across from the Dexter-Huron Metropark between Huron River Drive and Joy Road, this preserve is

approximately 90 acres in size. It is a hilly, heavily wooded parcel with wetlands, prairies, and an old orchard. *Not currently open to the public.*

In addition to ongoing work on the above-listed properties, the current top priority for the Transportation Alternatives Planning committee is extending the Zeeb Road Pathway to meet the Border-to-Border Trail on Huron River Drive. Construction is planned for Spring 2021 on the section north of Miller Road.

We are fortunate to live in a Township with outstanding natural charm and beauty.

The recently passed millage is a tremendous testament to the community's support for parks, paths, and preserves. An active population that takes advantage of the natural beauty of our unique community benefits physically and psychologically. In addition to enhancing the desirability and livability of the area, property values increase, too. As the parks become accessible, we intend to host nature walks where residents can learn more about our environment.

Other residents are encouraged to get involved or suggest future topics for this column by sending an email to parks@sciotownship.org.

Continued



Mill Creek, Sloan Preserve, Photo by Nat Siddall

Send your photos of Scio parks and paths to the same address—we will share them with the forthcoming new Township website and Facebook pages. We look forward to hearing your suggestions and communicating with you about accessing our community-owned properties and building wonderful amenities for our community to enjoy.

MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Suzann Flowers, Co-chair; David Read, Co-chair; Patrick Shields, Secretary; Jane Vogel, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Chris Cheng; Norm Roller; Roy Townsend; Ariel Wan.

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Andy Turner, Chairperson; Rita Clinthorne, Vice-chairperson; Patrick McLaughlin, Secretary; Alec Jerome, Liaison to the Board of Trustees; Lisa Baker; Chuck Billups; Hobson Calhoun; Bob Hyde; Norm Roller.

Mask Up, Mask Right



Need help getting a mask?

Residents can pick up a free mask from partner sites across the state, including most local DPHS offices and Community Action Agencies. Find a distribution site at Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan or call the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136.



DID YOU KNOW?

Updating your voter registration at Michigan.gov/Vote automatically updates your Michigan driver's license! No need to wait for an appointment with the Secretary of State unless your current license is from another state or this is your first driver's license. *Remember: Every time you move you have to register to vote at your new location!*

HUMIDITY HELPS FIGHT COVID

If you are on forced-air furnace heat this winter, make sure your indoor relative humidity is in the 40-60 percent range to help fight COVID-19. Humidity can affect the transmission of viruses in the following ways: in dryer environments, fewer virus particles can be captured or cleared out of the respiratory tract, and larger viral droplets are more likely to turn into harder-to-avoid aerosolized droplets. In addition, most viruses decay faster in humidity in the 40-60 percent range. Miniature desk-top or "personal" humidifiers can help if you're working in an office, and home-sized or room-sized humidifiers are widely available. Just remember that going above the humidity range recommended can lead to mold, so aim for that sweet spot in the middle and know you are adding one more weapon in your defense against illness this winter. (source: Washington Post)

PRUNE OAK TREES IN WINTER TO AVOID OAK WILT



Oak wilt fungus, identified in the 1940s, is widespread across Michigan's Lower Peninsula and along the Wisconsin border in the Upper Peninsula. Red oaks are most susceptible and can die within weeks of infection. These trees have leaves with pointed tips and include black oak, northern red oak, and northern pin oak. Firewood can harbor the fungus, too. If you suspect your firewood is infected, burn it, chip it or debark it before April. Once the wood has been dried over a year and/or all bark loosens, it can no longer spread oak wilt. Learn more about invasive species and diseases at Michigan.gov/Invasives.

WINTER UPDATE FROM WCRC

Well, 2020 is finally behind us. Here at the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), we had only one construction project carry over to 2021 in Scio Township: the Miller Road bridge and resurfacing project. Our bridge contractors were unable to start the bridge work until the utility company had finished relocating its lines and they ran out of time to finish before the cold weather set in. **So, Miller Road between East Delhi Road and Wagner Road remains closed to all through-traffic this winter.** Construction will resume in late spring to complete the bridge and resurface Miller Road between Zeeb Road and Wagner Road. Visit wcroads.org/wcrc-project/miller-road-bridge-and-roundabout/ for more information and to subscribe to project updates via email.



Speaking of winter, it is now well underway, and WCRC continues to be ready for whatever Mother Nature throws at us. WCRC is responsible for winter maintenance on nearly 1,600 miles of road across the county, including approximately 75 miles of primary and local roads in Scio Township. We do our best to respond as quickly as possible during a winter storm, but every event is different and presents its own challenges.

HERE ARE 4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP US HELP YOU THIS WINTER:

1. Stay home during the storm if you can
2. Park your car in the driveway instead of the road
3. Keep kids away from the road and snowplows
4. Move your trash/recycling bins away from the road

BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Learn more about our winter maintenance practices at wcroads.org/faq/winter-maintenance/

We hope you had a nice holiday season and here's hoping for a better 2021!



ARRIVE ALIVE

For information on a range of cold-weather driving challenges, such as planning a safe route, how to control your vehicle on slick roads, what to do in an emergency, passenger safety information, tire tips and more, visit Michigan.gov/WinterDriving.

FOOD FOR KIDS IN ANN ARBOR

Check out the AAPS Food Distribution Plan at a2schools.org

FOOD FOR KIDS IN DEXTER

Check out Food & Nutrition at dexterschools.org



Summer Camp Scholarships

ALL kids should go to camp

We introduce Washtenaw County's most vulnerable 4th and 5th graders to a setting which is designed to develop resilient, self-confident, and responsible young adults: overnight camp. *And there's the fun part too!*

For more information, visit campscholarships.org

GET OUTSIDE!

When you can't travel and you still need to get away, check out Michigan.gov/DNR, a great resource for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, and more in state parks. Want to get outdoors and need aids to accessibility? Michigan.gov/DNRaccessibility has information on accessible recreation opportunities throughout the state.



SCIO TOWNSHIP'S SINGLE WASTE-HAULER TRANSITION: FAQ

On November 10, 2020, the Board of Trustees finalized a waste-hauling contract between Scio Township and GFL Environmental. The contract is available on the Scio Township website. **By January 31, 2021, all Scio residents should switch their waste-hauling contracts to GFL.** To help with the transition, we've assembled this list of frequently asked questions.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR GFL SERVICE?

There are three ways to sign up for services: 1) You can go to the GFL website: gflusa.com/residential/customer-service-request/ to request new services, then get a follow up from GFL, 2) You can call the GFL customer service department at 844-464-3587 or 3) You can send an email request to gflcustomerservice@gflenv.com. You will need to provide your name, street address, phone and email when setting up an account. January 31 is the deadline to sign up with GFL, but there is a grace period before enforcement begins on March 31, 2021.

WHAT IS THE RATE THAT SCIO RESIDENTS WILL PAY FOR GFL SERVICE?

The contracted residential rate for Scio Township is \$22.65 (or \$67.95 per quarter). This rate is effective on January 1. If you already have GFL service, and you are paying a different rate, then it will change as of January 1, 2021. The contract includes a rate schedule showing the marginal rate increases over the period of the contract.

CAN I GET A DISCOUNT?

If at least one person in the household is 65 years or older and/or a documented, disabled veteran, then the household is eligible for a 5% discount. Call 844-464-3587 to request the discount. It may be necessary to validate senior or disabled veteran status with GFL.

HOW SOON AFTER I SIGN UP WILL I RECEIVE BINS FROM GFL?

New accounts should receive two GFL bins, one for garbage, the other for recyclables, within a week of signing up.

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

WHAT ABOUT YARD WASTE?

Yard waste pickup is seasonal, starting in early April and ending mid-December. There is no designated yard waste bin. Homeowners can either place yard waste in large, craft paper bags or their own, reusable can. The Township will have a supply of GFL decals with which homeowners may label reusable containers. **Christmas trees with all decorations removed will be picked up at any time as part of residential service.**

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT SOME ASPECT OF GFL SERVICE?

Contact Customer Service at: 1) GFL's website: gflusa.com/residential/customer-service-request/ 2) Call the GFL customer service at 844-464-3587 or 3) Send an email to gflcustomerservice@gflenv.com. The customer service representative will create a complaint "ticket" that will go to Route Manager Mike Abdilla for resolution.

IS YOUR STUDENT LEARNING FROM HOME?

Make sure you tap into the environmental education videos available from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy available at Michigan.gov/EGLEclassroom. Featuring brief, informational lessons taught by EGLE experts and staff, these videos can enrich students' interest in the natural world around them right here in Michigan. You can even contribute a video of your own!



WE ARE CONNECTED!

No or slow internet getting you down? Identify and locate WiFi hotspots throughout the state and the country at <http://cngis.maps.arcgis.com>. Hint: The parking lot at Township Hall has been designated a "Back to School WiFi Location."

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Problems with any of these?
Report it.
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

- Online shopping
- Sweepstakes, prizes, lotteries
- Phone, internet, TV service
- Fake family emergency calls
- Callers pretending to be from the government
- Jobs and money-making opportunities
- Fake IRS calls
- Auto sales and repair



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

Postmaster: leave with current resident

To Scio Neighbor

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400
info@sciotownship.org
clerk@sciotownship.org
website: **sciotownship.org**
newsletter@sciotownship.org
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 5 pm

OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—
whathaway@sciotownship.org
Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—
jflintoft@sciotownship.org
Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—
depalmer@sciotownship.org
Jacqueline Courteau, Trustee—
jcourteau@sciotownship.org
Alec Jerome, Trustee—
ajerome@sciotownship.org
Kathleen Knol, Trustee—
kknol@sciotownship.org
Jane E. Vogel, Trustee—
jvogel@sciotownship.org
TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org

THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

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Editor Mary Gillis
Graphic Design Julie Tanguay
Printing and Mailing Print-Tech

SENIOR STAFF

Andrew Houde, Fire Chief –
ahoude@sciotownship.org
Steve Wyzgoski, Utilities Director—
swyzgoski@sciotownship.org
Sandy Egeler, CFO – segeler@sciotownship.org
Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator –
kaiken@sciotownship.org
Jim Merte, Assessor – jmerte@sciotownship.org

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

County Commissioner

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski
maciejewskij@washtenaw.org
District 9 – Katie Scott
scottk@washtenaw.org

STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Representative

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

State Senator

District 22 - Lana Theis. (517) 373-2420
senltheis@senate.michigan.gov

Governor

Gretchen Whitmer. (517) 373-3400
gwhitmer@michigan.gov

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Representatives

District 7 – Tim Walberg (202) 225-6276
walberg.house.gov
District 12 – Debbie Dingell (202) 225-4071
debbiedingell.house.gov

U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow (202) 224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov
Gary Peters (202) 224-6221
peters.senate.gov

President of the United States

Joe Biden (202) 456-1111
whitehouse.gov