



# FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

**T**his issue of the newsletter marks one year since I and the other members of the Board of Trustees began our work together as the Township's elected representatives. From managing the latest moves in the 30-year Gelman dioxane litigation to overseeing the transition to a single waste-hauler, this Board has tackled major, long-term issues from the moment we were sworn in. With regard to Gelman, we decisively rejected the flawed negotiated settlement agreement and successfully petitioned for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversight of the clean-up. We also initiated a well-testing project that has yielded vital new data on the extent of the dioxane groundwater "plume" (see Trustee Knol's update on page 9).

The Board approved dozens of appointments of residents to serve on Township advisory committees, a recruitment process that resulted in the most diverse representation in the Township's history. With the hard work of these volunteers, the Township has:

- Extended the Zeeb Road Pathway further north and secured funding for additional segments (see the related article on page 8)
- Constructed the long-awaited Parkland Plaza sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety
- Improved public access to multiple Township-owned nature preserves (see Patrick McLaughlin's article on page 10)

- Protected a historic farm site (see Trustee Jerome's article on page 8)
  - Added acres of natural open space to nature preserves and conserved agricultural land (see Barry Lonik's article on page 6)
  - Successfully negotiated for redesign of a proposed development in order to protect a major blue heron nesting area
  - Launched the *Environmental Sustainability Task Force* to help guide the Township toward carbon neutrality (see Planning Commission Chair Culbertson's article on page 7)
  - Obtained a State of Michigan brownfield grant to redevelop an abandoned industrial site as a thriving new business
  - Guided four neighborhood Special Assessment Districts (SADs) through the approval process so they are ready for construction in spring 2022
  - Completed a two-year process to update the Land Use Master Plan
  - Hired a township administrator to oversee operations and strengthen our employee teamwork (see profile on page 5).
- This is a partial list of the work done by Scio Township government over the past year. The work ahead will be yet more demanding. Here are some of the challenges we face:
- Advocating on behalf of Scio in the courts and with environmental agencies over the

- spread of the Gelman plume
- Navigating the opportunity afforded by our nearly \$2M in Federal ARPA Covid funds
- Determining the best way to pay for the West Liberty water main
- Planning for the water main loop to the north that is more urgent given the recent discovery of dioxane in private wells north of M-14 subject to the terms of the Gelman Consent Judgment and potential EPA

*Continued on page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Fire Chief .....	2
Clerk's Column .....	3
Sheriff's Report .....	4
Letter from the Treasurer.....	4
New Township Administrator.....	5
Oak Wilt .....	5
Scio Adds 93 Acres.....	6
Environmental Sustainability Task Force ..	7
View from a Trustee .....	8
Scio Pathways .....	8
Gelman Update.....	9
Scio Parks and You .....	10
Trouble-Shooting Plumbing Problems.....	11
When Will My Road Be Plowed?.....	11
Contacts.....	12

Continued from page 1

- involvement
- Stretching millage funds by locating matching-fund sources for parks and pathways.
- Addressing the Township's future road maintenance and infrastructure needs
- Deciding whether to extend our Downtown Development Authority or consider new

financing sources for our water and sewer systems in the Jackson Road corridor.

If the lessons of dioxane pollution, Covid, and infrastructure challenges have taught us anything in Scio Township, it is this: to be good leaders we need to work together as a team and strive for alignment with surrounding communities. Everything from shared emergency resources, shared water rights, and shared broadband must be managed with

strong leadership connections to our neighbors, the County, the State, and even the Federal government. **By working together, drawing on the different strengths of all team members, we can succeed in addressing the many challenges facing the Township and even convert those challenges into opportunities.** I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as Township supervisor and proud of what we've accomplished so far on behalf of the residents of Scio Township.

## LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

**A**s you start off the new year with a resolution to eat better and exercise more often, consider one additional step to maintain your good health: fire prevention. The Scio Township Fire Department recently took great strides towards improving fire safety in the community by hiring Doug Armstrong to the newly-created position of full-time Fire Marshal. Doug has been with Scio since 2001 and has served as a firefighter, Lieutenant, interim Fire Chief, and Assistant Chief. He's a member of the Washtenaw County Swift Water Rescue Team and Drone Team and a founding member of the Helping Area Response Teams (HART) non-profit organization.

The Fire Marshal is responsible to ensure commercial buildings are safe for both occupants and visitors and to educate the public about fire prevention and safety. A fire can be devastating to any business. In fact, **more than 40 percent of businesses that suffer a significant fire close permanently.** Regular inspections can help avoid this type of disastrous scenario and keep staff and customers safe. A routine fire inspection provides the fire department with valuable

information for site planning and a chemical inventory that is helpful for planning an emergency response. Fire inspections also assess potential fire hazards that exist within buildings, identify ways that a fire may spark, and confirm emergency responders have easy access to the facility in case of emergency. Finally, the fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and fire extinguishers are checked to ensure they are ready for use.

### WELCOME TERRY SOAVE

The Fire Marshal is aided by Terry Soave, a new team member hired in to play an administrative role, answering phones and greeting visitors, coordinating general office operations, and assisting with fire inspection and fire prevention activities. A longtime Township resident, Terry comes to us with over 15 years' experience in community outreach and resource advocacy. Welcome Terry!

### FINALLY, HERE ARE TIPS TO HELP YOU RING IN A FIRE-SAFE YEAR AT HOME

- Ensure you have working smoke alarms (check those batteries)

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF,  
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Resolve to test all smoke alarms annually and replace them when they are 10 years old
- Install one detector on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and outside all sleeping areas
- Interconnected smoke alarms provide the best protection because when one sounds, they all sound
- Cooking is the main cause of home fires; remember to make safety the first ingredient
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking at high temperatures, like frying, broiling, or boiling. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off
- Keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher close to your kitchen.

Scio Township Fire Department is urging everyone to make 2022 a healthy and fire-safe year. Visit the National Fire Prevention Association website, [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org), for more fire safety information and resolve to enjoy a relaxing, healthy, and fire-safe New Year!

### MICHIGAN ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This winter Governor Whitmer authorized \$54.5 million in Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grants to local agencies to help families pay for heat and energy. Assistance from MEAP can cover full or partial payment of one or more bills for electric, natural gas, propane, heating oil, or any other deliverable fuel used to provide heat. Contact your utility company or propane supplier as soon as you know you will be unable to pay your bill on time. Don't wait for a shutoff notice or put yourself in a situation where you might run out of fuel. Call 211 or go to [mi211.org](http://mi211.org) to get in touch with these local agencies that may assist with your energy bill.

# CLERK'S COLUMN

## HOW APPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING IMPACT SCIO

**T**he results of the 2020 US Census drive decisions across the nation in regard to how communities will be represented by County, State, and Federal elected representatives. The 435 seats in the US House of Representatives have been apportioned across each of the 50 states. Statewide elections held in 2022 will reflect the new reality that Michigan will now have only 13 seats in the US House. So, while every ten-year federal census necessitates redistricting, the process will be more extensive this year. Michigan is one of nine states that uses a Redistricting Commission process. Over 61 percent of voters statewide—and 76 percent of Scio voters—voted to establish the Commission in the State Constitution in November 2018.

In December of 2021, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission completed its inaugural process—setting the geographic boundaries for the US House, as well as for the State Senate and the State Legislature. Currently, the Township is split across two US Congressional Districts, but represented by a single State Senator and a single State Representative. The Commission's proposals will make significant changes to these district boundaries for Township voters. These maps are expected to be finalized by February.

The Washtenaw County Apportionment Commission has already completed its determination of the number and boundaries of our County Districts for 2022-2032. Special thanks to Scio resident County Clerk

Larry Kestenbaum for his leadership of this Commission. **Though the Commission determined that the County will continue to be apportioned into 9 districts, the geographic boundaries of the County Districts will shift beginning with the elections to be held in 2022.** This change will mean that nearly 2,000 Scio residents who live in the southeast portion of the Township in the neighborhoods of the Uplands, Hometown Village, Meadowinds, The Ravines, Kensington Woods, Sommerfield Glen, and Walnut Glen will now reside in District 9 (currently represented by County Commissioner Katie Scott), no longer in District 1 (currently represented by Jason Maciejewski).

As these redistricting decisions are being made, the Clerk's Office is preparing to make adjustments to precinct boundaries. With the help of Deputy Clerk Mary Gillis, we set our precincts to be contiguous geographies with no more than 2,999 active voters. We strive to align the boundaries of Township precincts with those of Congressional, State House, State Senate, County District, and School Districts. And we do our very best to establish polling places that are accessible and convenient for each precinct.

Once my determination of Voting Precincts is approved by the Township Election Commission, and the Board of Trustees establishes polling places, **we shall mail a letter—with a new Voter Identification Card enclosed—to all voters of Scio Township.** The new information will also be available through all official channels

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

of the Secretary of State, County, and Township. As always, if you ever receive a communication related to elections or your voter registration that you have concerns or questions about, pick up the phone (734/369-9400) or stop by Township Hall to ask us about it.

### 2022 ELECTION DATES

**May 3** – Special Election (possible)

**August 2** – State Primary Election

**November 8** – State General Election

For more information or to register to vote, [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote).

**Michigan clerks stand united against the so-called "Secure MI Vote" petition drive. Don't be fooled by the name. Passage of these laws would make it HARDER to vote in Michigan, NOT safer.**

### 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.



## NEW NON-BINARY OPTION

Effective November 10, 2021, Michigan residents are able to select a non-binary option – marked with an "X" – as the sex field on their driver's licenses and state identification cards. The Bureau of Elections will also provide updated voter registration forms with a non-binary option. As is the case with name changes, voters with an existing registration who want to update to the non-binary option must do so at a Secretary of State branch office. "I am proud to offer state identification that bolsters the safety and accurately reflects the identity of more Michigan residents," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. The required form is available online at [Michigan.gov/SOSUpdateID](https://Michigan.gov/SOSUpdateID), and at the front desk in Township Hall.

# SHERIFF'S REPORT

**P**hone scams are one of the most common types of fraud the Sheriff's Office investigates. **Trust your instincts.** If you have any doubts about the legitimacy of an unsolicited phone call, DON'T give out personal information such as birth date, SS number, bank account info, credit card info, Paypal account info, etc. DON'T provide any sort of payment without ample research on the organization. And DON'T get into a conversation with the caller; scammers are amazing at manipulation. **Always hang up if you feel uncomfortable with the line of questioning from an unsolicited caller.** Any reputable organization or charity will be willing to send you relevant information in writing. Always research any charity or company before sending them money.

## POPULAR SCAMS

- Caller says they are with the IRS and claims unpaid taxes are owed. Warns that a warrant will be issued for your arrest or Police will be sent to arrest you if they go unpaid.
  - The IRS does not contact via telephone
  - The IRS will NEVER issue a warrant for your arrest
- A representative from a law enforcement agency claims that you have a warrant for

your arrest, but you can pay to make it go away.

- Law enforcement will never contact via telephone in reference to a warrant
- Law enforcement will never ask for money or take payment over the phone
- Caller says you qualified for a federal grant but have to pay money to receive it
  - You should never have to pay money to receive money
- Caller claims that a child/grandchild is in jail, hospital, or something similar and needs money ASAP. Typically requires money to be sent Western Union.

BY ALAN HUNT, LIEUTENANT  
WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE, SCIO STATION

- Ask what jail or hospital and contact those places directly
- Call child or grandchild directly

If you believe you have become the victim of a scam, contact your local police to file a report, and register the scam with the Federal Trade Commission at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). To reduce the number of unsolicited calls you get, register your phone number with the Do Not Call Registry at either [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222.



# LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

## LOTS OF NEW THINGS IN MY OFFICE I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU!

As many of you have heard, Jim Merte, our long-time assessor, has retired. One of the tasks he did was establishing and setting up the data base for the tax roll. According to the Tax Statute, that obligation is under the responsibility of the Treasurer's Office. In addition to assuming responsibility for the tax roll, I have moved all receipting and recording of incoming monies

back into my area to free up time for the finance manager. This has resulted in the need for a full-time deputy. I have appointed Sandy Egeler, our long-time finance director, as Deputy Treasurer. She will also have other duties within the Township because of the wealth of knowledge she has.

You should have received your 2021 winter tax bill by now. Many of you have paid your taxes, BUT if you have not yet received your bill,

BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE at 734/369-9400 and we will print you another.

**Taxes are due by February 14, 2022**, before a 3 percent delinquent fee is added.

Once again, I thank you for helping me do my job.

Donna E. Palmer, Your treasurer

# WELCOME TO THE NEW TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR!

**D**ecember 1, 2021, was the first day for new Township Administrator David Rowley, who has been hired to oversee the Township's operations. By experience and avocation, David Rowley is well equipped to handle a position whose job description touches on every area of operations, from contract management to Human Resources and IT. He has spent a long career in local government, including 21 years as City Assessor for the City of Mount Pleasant, where his work included everything from elections to land division. David's most recent work as an educator with the MSU Extension Service gave him the opportunity to share his vision of good governance with elected and appointed officials throughout the state, but he is glad to be back in the role of public servant himself. "My experience with MSU Extension was wonderful



but I never got to stay in one place to see the real-world results of my work," he recalls. David is looking forward to digging into the variety of work assigned to the Township Administrator by our Board of Trustees, but he sees his first task

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

as assuring residents that the Township intends to provide the best quality service possible to all our residents. **He proclaims that every worker is essential and it's his job to start by getting to know Board members and staff, learning more about the work and talents of each and building consensus and a sense of team in service to the community as a whole.**

David and his wife have lived in Alma, Michigan, for the past six years, where they have been the proud owners of an historic "four-square" home. They intend to spend the next few months exploring the neighborhoods of the Township, looking for a home they will love as much.

Good luck to David and welcome to Scio, we're so glad you're with us!

## OAK WILT

**W**hile freezing temperatures have once again taken hold of Michigan and our statuesque oak trees stand leafless and dormant against the winter sky, Scio residents aren't alone in pining for the warmer temperatures of spring. The fungal pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum*, which causes Oak Wilt, can infect our native oak trees once temperatures are above freezing and kill trees within just a few weeks.

Oak Wilt is not a new problem in Michigan, but the impact on our trees continues to grow. The fungus was first reported in Michigan in the 1970s and is now known to exist in at least 56 counties, spread by sap beetles that carry the fungus from tree to tree as well as people moving infected firewood into uninfected areas. The pathogen can also spread underground via root connections between individual trees and



Photo credit: Monique Sakalidis

affects some trees more drastically than others. Trees in the red oak family can be infected and die within several weeks, while infection and decline are slower in trees in the white oak family.

Infected trees are often first noticed when leaves suddenly drop or turn brown in the summer months. Leaves may be brown, somewhat bronzed, or partially green. Proper diagnosis of Oak Wilt should be completed by a

BY JOHN DESLIPPE, OHM ADVISORS

tree professional. Branch samples can be sent directly to the MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics lab for confirmation ([pestid.msu.edu](http://pestid.msu.edu)).

### **SIMPLE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF OAK WILT IN OUR COMMUNITY**

- When possible, prune oaks between December 1 and February 15. Especially avoid pruning mid-April to mid-July
- Immediately seal wounds on oaks damaged during the growing season by lawn mowers, boom mowers, or weed eaters
- Don't move firewood. Burn wood from trees killed by Oak Wilt to prevent infection spread
- Seek professional guidance if Oak Wilt is suspected.

Get more information and a free downloadable field guide to Michigan oaks at [MichiganOakWilt.org](http://MichiganOakWilt.org).

# SCIO ADDS 93 ACRES TO WEST SIDE PRESERVE

BY BARRY LONIK,  
LAND PROTECTION CONSULTANT

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program recently purchased three parcels totaling 93.362 acres from the Cykiert family. The parcels are located on the north side of Park Road west of Staebler Road. The land is a mix of mature woods, farm fields, and wetlands with frontage on two branches of Honey Creek. These parcels are the latest addition to a land conservation effort that began in 1999. It was then that two families—the Parkers and the Mannys—were among the first in Washtenaw County to sell development rights on their farms fronting on Parker Road (Scio's western boundary) to the State of Michigan, ensuring they would never be developed. Including those two farms, Scio and its funding partners have completed a total of 18 different projects and conserved over 650 contiguous

acres of farmland and natural areas spanning over two miles!

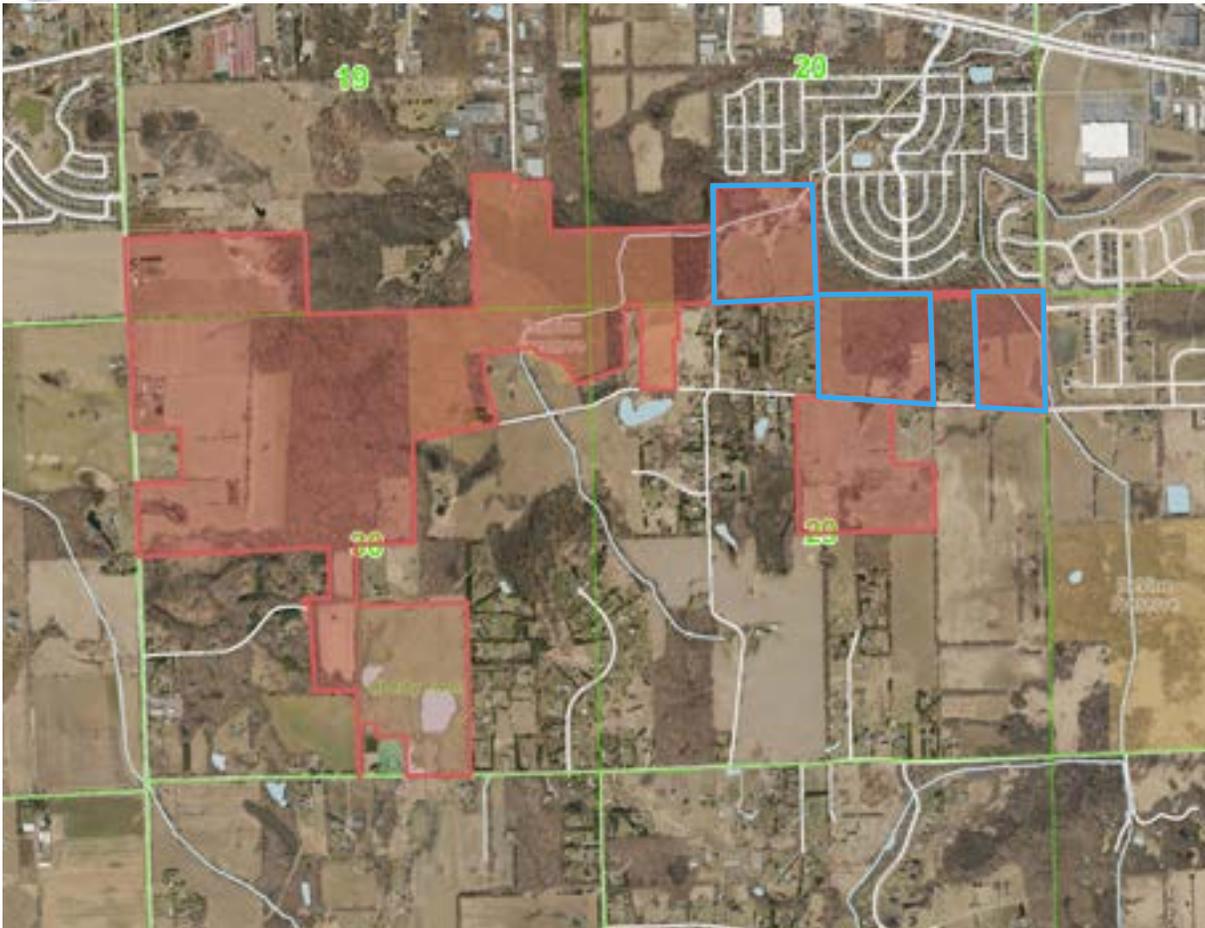
In this conservation block, over 270 acres are now or will soon be accessible to the public. The two spots with parking and trails are Liberty Farm on Liberty Road west of Park Road and West Scio Preserve at the south end of Dino Drive (off Jackson Road just west of Baker Road). Such access amenities are funded by Scio's dedicated Parks, Preserves and Pathways millage. The remainder of this conservation block is protected by deed restrictions called "conservation easements" in which the landowner agrees to prohibit housing and other development but retains ownership and use of the property, with public access not permitted.

Scio's Land Preservation Commission (LPC)—seven volunteers appointed by the Board of

Trustees—has identified all of the high quality agricultural and natural area parcels remaining in the Township. The LPC seeks to conserve as many of these as possible, and to do so in blocks in order to protect natural features or farm use. In a developed area like Scio, it can take a long time to assemble a meaningful number of parcels into a sizeable protected area.

Scio Township's dedicated land preservation millage—which voters passed initially in 2004 and renewed in 2012, both by large margins—was the sole funding source for the Cykiert purchases. With this project the Township program has been involved in protecting 1,585 acres, with more projects set to close in the coming months.

## West Scio Greenway



**Legend**

- Sections
- Police Stations
- Fire Stations
- County Buildings
- Local Unit Offices
- Railroad
- Road Centerlines\_18K
  - <all other values>
  - Collector
  - Freeway
  - Highway
  - Local
  - Major Arterial
  - Minor Arterial
  - Ramp
- O2020\_boundary
- Cykiert Parcels

THIS MAP REPRESENTS PARCELS AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. THE OFFICIAL PARCEL TAX MAPS ARE MAINTAINED SOLELY BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT AND CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THAT OFFICE AT 734-222-6662.

The information contained in this cadastral map is used to locate, identify and inventory parcels of land in Washtenaw County for appraisal and taxing purposes only and is not to be construed as a "survey description". The information is provided with the understanding that the conclusions drawn from such information are solely the responsibility of the user. Any assumption of legal status of this data is hereby disclaimed.

**NOTE: Parcels may not be to scale.**  
11/3/2021

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

## REDUCING FOOTPRINTS AND EXPANDING HANDPRINTS

Twenty-two volunteers from a range of backgrounds make up Scio's Environmental Sustainability Task Force. We have been working since August of 2021 to research and develop a Climate Action Plan based on five work areas:

- Energy & Buildings
- Natural Eco Systems/Sustainable Food Systems
- Transportation & Mobility
- Materials & Waste
- Climate Resilience & Emergency Preparedness



while looking through these six lenses:

- Social Equity
- Carbon Neutrality
- Health & Wellness
- Education & Outreach
- Economic Development & Viability
- Circular Economy



You can join our work by making a New Year's resolution to reduce your **carbon footprint** and expand your **ecological handprint**.

A **carbon footprint** is the total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide and methane) that is generated by our actions. The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 tons/year—one of the highest rates in the world. (Calculate your individual carbon footprint with the help of the Nature Conservancy at [Nature.org](https://www.nature.org)). Some ways to reduce your carbon footprint include scheduling a free Home Energy Consultation with DTE, enrolling in their MI Green Power Program, purchasing an electric vehicle (DTE offers a rebate on your home charger!), and planning for the electrification of your home by installing a heat pump.

The **ecological handprint** builds on the concept of the carbon footprint. The handprint is a positive action that engages beyond the individual, impacting the larger community or spurring collective action. You can expand your ecological handprint by supporting local

BY JAN CULBERTSON, CHAIR,  
PLANNING COMMISSION

agriculture, transforming some or all of your lawn into vegetables or native plants, and by clearing invasives from your property.

One recommendation under discussion by the Task Force is for the Township Board to declare a carbon neutrality goal aligned with Washtenaw County: **Carbon neutrality for Township operations by 2030 and community-wide by 2035**. Washtenaw County will be kicking off their climate action plan community outreach in January.

Find out more about the Environmental Sustainability Task Force on the Township website, [Sciotownship.org](https://www.sciotownship.org), under the Democracy tab. There you'll find links to resources that will help you reduce your carbon footprint and expand your ecological handprint. Together we can reach our goal of a carbon neutral future.

"That can that contains Michigan-made cider could have come out of your neighbor's recycling bin and got processed into a new can, or it could have come from the ground in a bauxite mine in Australia, got shipped to Asia for processing and then got put on a boat and moved here," he said. "Four times the amount of greenhouse gas is saved by taking that already-mined aluminum and turning it into a new can." – Matt Flechter, recycling market development specialist for EGLE (Source: [Michigan.gov/mienvironment](https://www.michigan.gov/mienvironment))



## RECYCLE YOUR PHONE

Donating or recycling cell phones is a great way to conserve resources. For every million cell phones recycled, 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered, according to the United States EPA. Before recycling your electronics, always delete all personal information. Find a place to recycle your cell phone locally at [search.earth911.com](https://search.earth911.com).



## 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](https://www.Michigan.gov/WinterDriving).



# VIEW FROM A TRUSTEE *This is a new column offering a perspective on Township news from each of the four Trustees.*

## PROTECTING OUR LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY

**T**he Land Preservation Commission of Scio Township has worked tirelessly over more than a decade to preserve agricultural and natural open space through either purchase in fee or conservation easement. The Township always seeks funding partners, which can optimize our stewardship of the land. Scio continues to seek a favorable balance between prudent development and protection of our cultural landscape. Beyond the literal land, the cultural landscape encompasses the impact of humans on the local geography. **Cultural landscape provides a sense of place and demonstrates our connections to the past.**

In a parallel effort to support sustainability and protect our cultural heritage and the agricultural history of the region, the Township has engaged with the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission (WCHDC) to create a study committee to review the historical significance of the Wild-Frey Farm of 7970 West Liberty Road. The Wild-Frey Farm is emblematic of the farming heritage of this area and settlement patterns of southeast Michigan.

The WCHDC creates local historic district designations for a single building or assemblage of buildings on a unique site to protect their historic design, stories, and architecture. This designation protects the integrity of the property and the character-

BY TRUSTEE ALEC JEROME

defining features of only the exterior look and layout, in perpetuity for residents. Contrary to common belief, this designation does not prevent a future owner from updating interiors of the space.

The Wild-Frey Farm on West Liberty Road would be the sixteenth local historic district formally protected by the County. Following the placement of historic designation, the Township, in consultation with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, would seek qualified individuals to purchase the historic farmstead and protect the property and outbuildings for years to come.

# STATE SUPPORT BREAKTHROUGH FOR SCIO PATHWAYS

**S**cio Township's non-motorized pathways received a huge financial boost when the office of State Representative Donna Lasinski announced the allocation of \$1.5 million from the 2022 State budget for two segments of the Zeeb Road Pathway project. One of these Enhancement Grants provides \$750,000 to continue work on Phase IV of the Zeeb Road Pathway, which will extend the pathway toward Peters Road. With this grant that work can now be planned for summer of 2022. Phase III was completed in October of 2021 and extended the pathway from Dexter-Ann Arbor Road to 1500 feet past Miller Road. Trustee Jane Vogel, who has led efforts on the Zeeb Road Pathway through her work on the Transportation Alternatives Planning (TAP) committee, predicts that this windfall will help close the funding gap to connect the Zeeb Road Pathway all the way to the Border to Border (B2B) pathway along Huron River Drive. TAP is now focused on the last two phases of the Pathway, which

will extend it across the Huron River and the Amtrak railroad track for the final connection to B2B at Huron River Drive. Vogel stated, "I am grateful to our residents for passing the Parks & Pathways millage in 2019. It has enabled the Township to leverage outside funds to move forward on the pathway network that will connect our residents to Scio's nature preserves, recreational areas, and also serves as a commuting option."

The other half of this \$1.5 million State appropriation is earmarked to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Zeeb Road and I-94. Making improvements to infrastructure that is not Township-owned, such as the I-94 overpass, adds a level of complication. The Township will coordinate with the Washtenaw County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation, as well as other partners, to use these funds to provide physical separation between pedestrians and automobiles on the highway overpass and add traffic signals where the

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

eastbound on/off ramp and pedestrian sidewalk intersect.

When Representative Lasinski officially announced the award at the October 12, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting she thanked Supervisor Hathaway and Trustee Vogel for their work in developing the proposals. Having the early engineering work complete enabled Representative Lasinski to submit the request for funding at the State level. The Zeeb Road Pathway is considered a significant component in a growing network of non-motorized pathways, creating safe pedestrian and cycling alternatives to automobiles; and increasing accessibility to natural and recreational amenities across the Township, the county, and the state. Hathaway stated, "The Township is grateful to Representative Lasinski for her work to secure these two grants for Scio Township. This State funding will accelerate the effort to make all areas of the Township safe and accessible for non-motorized transportation."

# GELMAN UPDATE

## RESIDENTIAL WELL TESTING

Low levels of dioxane have been spreading in groundwater from the old Gelman Sciences filter manufacturing site off Wagner Road for decades. It is thought that thousands of pounds of dioxane were discharged into soil, surface water, seepage lagoons, and in one deep well injection site on the Gelman property.

**The dioxane groundwater plume is now estimated to be 4 miles long and 1 mile wide, covering portions of Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township, and the City of Ann Arbor.** The Michigan Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE) collaborates with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) to conduct long-term monitoring of drinking water wells around the Gelman dioxane plume. Drinking water wells within 1,000 feet of the estimated plume boundary are included in this state-funded monitoring. Delineation of the plume boundary has never been conclusively established and the posted boundary lines represent estimates from EGLE.

Because of concern about potential movement of the dioxane plume, **the Board of Trustees authorized sampling of 17 residential wells in July of 2021. The sampling of these wells was conducted by Keith Gadway, PE, Director of Quantum Environmental. Three of these wells tested positive.** One had previously tested positive and the other two had no prior sampling history. The two wells are located on N. Wagner Road and Dexter-Ann Arbor Road and had levels of dioxane detected at 0.8 parts per billion (ppb). All affected homeowners have been notified of the testing results. **In November, the Board authorized 15 additional well tests near the 2 sites that recently tested positive. This round of testing with the 522 Method has revealed 4 additional drinking water wells that have**

**tested positive on N. Wagner, Miller Road, and Rose Drive.** This data is currently under review by Gadway, Washtenaw County, and EGLE. A collaborative plan for additional testing is being formulated.

The wells were sampled using the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) dioxane analytical method for residential wells, Method 522. This testing method can detect dioxane below 1 ppb, a more sensitive method than that currently used by EGLE and WCHD, which can only detect dioxane levels down to 1 ppb. The Michigan drinking water standard for dioxane is 7.2 ppb. Many states have a drinking water standard of 1 ppb. The use of the 522 Method has long been recommended by advocates for more comprehensive monitoring in areas that are estimated to represent the perimeter of the plume.

**The recent testing in Scio documents the presence of dioxane approximately two-thirds of a mile north of what had been estimated to be the boundary of the dioxane plume.** Although more data is needed, this finding raises concerns about the validity of the estimated northern boundary of the plume, which right now is placed near M-14. Scio Township will be advocating for EGLE to conduct expanded well testing and more delineation in the areas of recent detections. The possibility for residents in certain areas to obtain 522 Method testing of their own drinking water wells is being explored. The logistics of this are under discussion; as of this writing, no decisions have been made. Details on this next round of testing will be announced on the front page of the website, [sciotownship.org](http://sciotownship.org).

## CIRCUIT COURT UPDATE

After holding a hearing on May 3, 2021, Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge Timothy

BY TRUSTEE KATHLEEN KNOL

Connors entered the Fourth Amended and Restated Consent Judgment as an Order of the Court. This Consent Judgment was part of a proposed settlement which was made public in September of 2020 and rejected as insufficient by the elected officials of the Intervenor in the litigation, including Scio Township. The Circuit Court Order requires Gelman to immediately implement all the response activities in the Consent Judgment. Gelman filed an appeal and requested that the Court of Appeals stay implementation of the response activities while the appeal was pending, but its request was denied. **As a result, Gelman has been conducting the response activities in the Consent Judgment required by the Circuit Court Order. Briefing on the appeal has been completed and the Court of Appeals will schedule the case for hearing.**

## EPA UPDATE

In April of 2021, EGLE requested that the EPA reinstate assessment of the Gelman site for possible placement on the National Priorities List. Weston Solutions has been selected to conduct the Gelman Site Inspection, which is the next step to determine if the site continues to be eligible for evaluation as a Superfund National Priorities Site. Weston is currently reviewing available data in order to prepare a site inspection sampling plan.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD) [Washtenaw.org](http://Washtenaw.org)

Scio Residents for Safe Water (SRSW) [SRSW.org](http://SRSW.org)

EGLE Gelman website [Michigan.gov/EGLE](http://Michigan.gov/EGLE)

USEPA Gelman website [EPA.gov/MI.gelman-sciences](http://EPA.gov/MI.gelman-sciences)



# SCIO PARKS AND YOU

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has been busy surveying two current preserves with the help of interns, preparing another park for public access, and offering monthly tours.



Parks interns Anna Cone and James Johnson

## BIODIVERSITY IN SCIO TOWNSHIP

Fall 2021 saw the ending of the parks internship for two University of Michigan graduate students, Anna Cone and James Johnson. Anna and James produced a comprehensive flora and fauna survey at two Scio Township properties: West Scio Preserve and the Liberty Pond Nature Area. Their report lists an impressive number of plants and creatures in the two properties. From *Acer negundo* (box elder) to *Zanthoxylum americanum* (prickly ash), **Anna and James identified 146 different kinds of trees, shrubs, vines, and other plants. Their breeding-bird survey revealed 67 species at the two properties.** This valuable document provides a baseline resource that will help us ensure the progress of our efforts to encourage native



species and engage in restoration projects. Thank you, Anna and James, for a job well done! Read it for yourself at [Sciotownship.org/Community](https://Sciotownship.org/Community), and look under "Parks, Paths, and Preserves."

## COMING SOON TO A PRESERVE NEAR YOU!

You may have seen the new signage and information kiosks at several of our properties throughout the Township. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to report progress on the construction of a pavilion and other amenities at Marshall Park. The pavilion will be partially constructed with reclaimed barn wood from a hundred-year-old barn in Scio Township. This location provides an ideal trailhead for accessing the Zeeb Road Pathway and will include a picnic area and bike rack. The picnic area will be ADA-compliant and enable easy access from the parking area. A trail loop at the park is in the planning stage and will be completed this year.

## SATURDAYS IN SCIO TOURS A SUCCESS

Members of the Land Preservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have come together to host nature tours at parks and preserves on the first Saturday of each month since the summer of 2021. The tours are a fun way to learn more about the natural features of Scio Township and underscore the need to preserve and maintain the protected property in our

BY PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Township. See the table (below) for the location of tours through the summer of 2022. Join us for an invigorating hike and meet neighbors who share an appreciation for our parks and preserves.

## YOUR MILLAGE AT WORK!

University of Michigan graduate student Anna Cone is continuing her work at Scio Township properties through the winter. Her work ensuring that trails are free from obstructions and well maintained is funded by the Parks and Pathways Millage of 2020. She is a tremendous resource for information about Scio parks and preserves after serving as an intern in the summer of 2021.



## SATURDAYS IN SCIO TOURS

Tour schedule, jointly sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Land Preservation Commission:

**January 8: Dexter-Huron Metropark (B2B trail)**

**February 5: Delhi Metropark**

**March 5: Burns-Stokes Preserve**

**April 2: Liberty Pond Nature Area**

**May 7: West Scio Preserve**

**June 4: Fox Science Preserve**

# TROUBLE-SHOOTING PLUMBING PROBLEMS

**W**e hope that you are mindful of the condition of your household plumbing and are using proper disposal practices (e.g. not flushing wipes or solids down the drain) and never experience a serious leak or blockage but these events may occur through no fault of your own. If you do have problems with your water supply or sewage disposal system, follow these tips to mitigate the damage and hopefully minimize your expenses during the event.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SEE WATER BUBBLING FROM THE GROUND

This is usually an indication of a water-main break. From 9 to 5 Monday through Friday call the Scio Township Utilities Department at **(734) 369-9350** to report where the break has occurred. If the break is observed outside of these hours, call the Emergency Number at **(734) 651-4770**. Utilities staff will determine the exact location of the break and close the appropriate valve(s) so that repairs can be made. If a total loss of pressure is experienced

in the area, bacteriological testing near the source will be conducted, and a "boil water advisory" notice may be issued for affected customers.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK IN YOUR HOME

The first thing to do is to close the main water valve, located where the water supply enters your home, near your water meter. The customer is responsible for maintaining and repairing the water line from the curb box (an underground valve access normally near your property line) throughout your household.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU HAVE SLOW SEWER DRAINAGE OR A BACK-UP INSIDE YOUR HOME

Stop using water immediately to mitigate the damage. Call the Scio Township Utilities Department using the above protocol so that we can determine where the blockage is located. Staff will arrive on site and open a manhole or two to ensure that the sewer main is flowing properly. If the problem is due to a blockage in

STEVE WYZGOSKI, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

the sewer main the Utilities Department will remove it. If the sewer main is working properly, the problem is due to a blockage within the residence or in the customer-owned sewer lead and is the responsibility of the customer.

## TIPS FOR OBTAINING A PLUMBER DURING AN EMERGENCY

If you need to call a 24-hour plumber, be prepared. Try to identify the problem as accurately as you can and make a note of what is working and what is not. Have a list of questions ready before you call. Get several quotes before you schedule a service call; the range in prices can be significant. Google "24/7 plumbers near me" for a list. Ask for a quote for the service call. Ask for an estimate of the cost of repair – not everyone will give a quote over the phone but you may be able to get an idea of the price.

Plumbing problems are never fun, but these tips may be helpful to reduce damage, costs, and the amount of time until you are problem-free.

# WHEN WILL MY ROAD BE PLOWED?

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**H**ere at the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), it has been another busy winter season already. We are responsible for winter maintenance on more than 1,600 miles of public roads across the county, including approximately 75 miles 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 challenges. Our crews respond to a winter storm based on a priority system:

### PRIMARY ROUTES

The most highly traveled roads in the county. When it is snowing, we focus all our efforts to keep these routes passable for emergency

vehicles and all travelers. Primary routes in Scio are I-94, M-14, and county paved roads, including Baker Rd, Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd, Dexter-Chelsea Rd, Huron River Dr, Jackson Rd, Joy Rd, Liberty Rd, a small section of Maple Rd, Miller Rd, Parker Rd, a small section of Pratt Rd, Scio Church Road, Scio Ridge Rd, Shield Rd, Wagner Rd, and Zeeb Rd.

### SECONDARY ROUTES

Subdivision roads and unpaved roads. These will be cleared once the primary routes are in good shape. If it starts to snow again, snowplows will leave their secondary routes to go back to primary routes. You can learn more about our winter maintenance practices by searching the FAQ at [wccroads.org](http://wccroads.org).

BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Like many organizations, the Road Commission is hiring full-time CDL drivers. If you or someone you know is looking for a full-time job with comprehensive benefits, including a pension and healthcare that starts immediately, check out our job postings and apply online at [wccroads.org](http://wccroads.org).

As always, you can call us at (734) 761-1500, email us at [wccrc@wccroads.org](mailto:wccrc@wccroads.org), and follow @WashtenawRoads on social media. We hope you have a great start to your 2022. See you out on the roads!





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

Postmaster: leave with current resident

## To Scio Neighbor

# USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

### TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 369-9400  
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 5 pm

**info@sciotownship.org**  
**clerk@sciotownship.org**  
**newsletter@sciotownship.org**  
website: **sciotownship.org**

### OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—  
[whathaway@sciotownship.org](mailto:whathaway@sciotownship.org)

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—  
[jflintoft@sciotownship.org](mailto:jflintoft@sciotownship.org)

Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—  
[depalmer@sciotownship.org](mailto:depalmer@sciotownship.org)

Jacqueline Courteau, Trustee—  
[jcourteau@sciotownship.org](mailto:jcourteau@sciotownship.org)

Alec Jerome, Trustee—  
[ajerome@sciotownship.org](mailto:ajerome@sciotownship.org)

Kathleen Knol, Trustee—  
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Jane E. Vogel, Trustee—  
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### UTILITIES

**In Scio:**  
8 am – 5 pm ..... (734) 369-9350

After hours ..... (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

1055 North Zeeb Road  
For emergencies ..... 911  
Business line ..... (734) 665-6001

### WASHTENAW COUNTY

#### County Water Resources

**Commissioner** ..... (734) 222-6860  
[drains@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:drains@ewashtenaw.org)

**County Road Commission** . . . . . (734) 761-1500  
[wrcr@wcroads.org](mailto:wrcr@wcroads.org)

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[maciejewskij@washtenaw.org](mailto:maciejewskij@washtenaw.org)

District 9 – Katie Scott  
[scottk@washtenaw.org](mailto:scottk@washtenaw.org)

#### County Sheriff Scio Station

For emergencies ..... 911  
Business line ..... (734) 994-2911

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[DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov](mailto:DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov)

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[senltheis@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senltheis@senate.michigan.gov)

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[walberg.house.gov](http://walberg.house.gov)

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[debbiedingell.house.gov](http://debbiedingell.house.gov)

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Debbie Stabenow. . . . . (202) 224-4822  
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Joe Biden. . . . . (202) 456-1111  
[whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)