



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

Spring is the time for fresh starts, for optimism, for renewal. Spring cleaning is a tradition for removing the clutter from our homes and tidying-up outside. In his article about open burning outdoors, Chief Houde offers advice for those who are clearing yard waste (p. 2). From April to December, the Township's single waste-hauler, **GFL Environmental** picks up compostable yard waste. GFL will also pick up an old appliance if it is placed next to your trash bin. There's more information on the Township's website.

Washtenaw County's **Home Toxics Center** operates a drop-off April through November at 705 N. Zeeb Road. Call 734/222-3950 for more information. The **Recycle Ann Arbor Recovery Yard** at 7891 Jackson Road accepts many recyclable items. Their phone is 734/426-2280. If you have cast-offs that others can re-use, there are multiple options in Scio: **Habitat for Humanity Re-store, Kiwanis, and Share House** all on Jackson Road, and **Westside Consignment** on Zeeb.

In her report on the Township's Environmental Sustainability Task Force (p. 9), Planning Commission Chair Jan Culbertson offers a call to action on the challenge of climate change. Thanks to strong voter support for the Township's Land Preservation Millage, Scio has preserved over 1,500 acres of natural and agricultural land since 2004. The Township's

Land Protection Consultant, Barry Lonik, provides more information in his article (p. 8). By preserving open space, the Township is helping to mitigate global warming. Planning Consultant Chris Nordstrom explains how the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan needs public input to help guide funding allocations for the next five years (p. 7).

The Township continues to advocate for cleanup of the Dioxane groundwater contamination caused by the Gelman Sciences corporation. Trustee Kathleen Knol's article (p. 9) provides an update on the well-testing project launched by the Township in 2021.

This spring the Township Board is taking a fresh approach to our meetings. On March 8, the Board adopted Rules of Order to help us manage our meeting time. One change is a return to the practice of public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting, drawing to a close the experiment this Board began in November 2020 when we first allowed public comments prior to every Board vote. The return to two public comment periods still offers the public double the opportunities for comment required by law.

Public comments aren't the only factor prolonging our meetings.

The March 8 meeting adjourned at 2:30 am not because of public comments, but because

two Board members made repeated objections to the Rules of Order as reviewed by the Township Administrator and Township Attorney. The Board was able to adopt Rules of Order about six-and-a-half hours into this seven-and-a-half hour-long meeting. No meeting should last that long, and it should be remembered that trustees have jobs in addition to the work they do at the Township.

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Having rules will help the Board to make better use of meeting time. Michigan Township Association staff attorney, Catherine Mullhaupt, provided this explanation in a 2017 MTA article: "Under the Open Meetings Act (OMA), the only place a township board can do its business is in a public meeting of the township board. Board meetings are the business meetings of the township board, and it's in the best interest of the township as a whole that the board conduct its business in an organized, productive and business-like manner."

With regard to public input, Mullhaupt states: "A township board meeting is not a debate or equal time situation for the public or individual board members. The public does not have a vote in the board's decisions, and they have the legal entitlement to express their opinions at a board meeting only during the public comment period or a specific public hearing."

To create another opportunity for public input, we will begin holding monthly coffee hours so that members of the public can meet with me and other members of the Board of Trustees to talk about Township issues. **The first of these coffee hours will be held at Township Hall**

on Saturday, April 9 from 9 to 10:30 am. The Board also welcomes correspondence from the public. Direct your emails to TownshipBoard@ScioTownship.org.

Transitions: Thank you and farewell to Shawn Slane who retired from her position as Utilities Clerk after 17 years with the Township. Shawn is profiled in the Staff Spotlight on page 11. Thank you to Jane Vogel for her leadership and hard work for the Township over the past few years. And welcome to Patrick McLaughlin, who began serving as Township Trustee in March. An introduction to Patrick is on page 6.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

We have the good fortune in Michigan to experience four very different seasons...sometimes all in one week! As our real spring gets into full swing I, like many others, look forward to getting out of the house and cleaning up the inevitable mess that fall and winter has left us. Unfortunately, this is also a time of increased risk of outdoor fire. Dry and windy conditions can lead a small, otherwise easily contained fire to get out of control.

Scio Township ordinances allow for residents to use fire to clean up yard waste through burning (this is not meant for disposal of trash or construction waste). Open burning is permitted under the following conditions:

1. The lot where burning is to take place is 1 acre or larger
2. Any fire is more than 50 feet from a structure or property line
3. Burning must be attended to at all times and an extinguishment means readily available
4. Open burning may only occur between 8 am and 4 pm

For a free permit to burn call the Fire Department at 734/665-6001. Residents should

plan carefully and only burn yard waste when conditions are favorable. Consider holding off for a better time if there hasn't been much rain and the winds pick up.

Many residents choose to plant native grasses or other groundcover that sometimes require fire to burn off existing cover as part of its lifecycle. This process involves a prescribed burn performed by trained personnel. We issue many prescribed burn permits to companies and governmental agencies each year to perform this work. These prescribed burns are not required to follow the rules governing open burning and occur over much larger areas—sometimes acres of groundcover are renewed by this process. **Residents should not attempt to burn large areas of groundcover themselves.** It takes years of work on a crew to understand fire and to be able to keep fire where it belongs and away from where it doesn't. There are several private companies that we work with in the community that can safely perform a prescribed burn.

Scio Township does not require a permit for a backyard cooking/comfort fire; however, the same precautions should be followed that one would use for open burning: always have

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF,
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

a responsible adult in charge, keep a means of extinguishment handy, and extinguish the fire completely before heading in for the night. Information about open burning and many other fire department services and statistics can be found at ScioTownship.org, under the heading COMMUNITY.

LIFE-SAFETY: FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION

Scio Fire Department's business inspection program is underway! If you are a local building or business owner, you will be hearing from us about scheduling a fire safety inspection. Inspections are performed by Scio Township Fire Marshal Doug Armstrong with the goal of identifying areas within your business with increased risk of loss from fire, and to help correct those issues. We value the businesses within our community and look forward to working with you to make your business as fire safe as possible. Call us at (734) 665-6001 to schedule.

CLERK'S COLUMN

SCIO RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE!

Two years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to disrupt in-person public meetings of the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, and various committees of the Township. Officials and members of the public adapted with grace and patience as we learned how to convene remotely. It was clear to me and other clerks nationwide that how we hold public meetings had changed forever. **In February 2021, the Board of Trustees invested in the necessary audio and visual equipment to upgrade the Township's Meeting Hall to allow people to participate either in-person or remotely.** And today we now have that technology in use for every committee of the Township (excluding the Board of Review because it discusses residents' sensitive personal financial information).

In Scio Township more members of the public are regularly participating in Board of Trustees meetings than ever before. This is due to the improved access to meetings through remote technology, and strong efforts by residents to hold us elected officials to account. We are fortunate to live in this place where people are so effectively engaged.

A survey conducted by the University of Michigan in the spring of 2021 found **that most local leaders in Michigan reflect positively on communications with constituents.**

Seventy percent of local leaders describe these interactions as constructive while just 5 percent describe them as divisive. Unfortunately, some of my colleagues on the Board have been in this 5 percent over the past year. And they've introduced proposal after proposal to curb public participation in our meetings. Their proposals have included: 1) eliminating remote participation for the public, 2) eliminating a written record of public comment in the minutes, and 3) reducing the number of opportunities for the public to speak at Board meetings.

With other colleagues, I am proud to have successfully defended against the first two proposals. **The public continues to be encouraged to participate either in-person or remotely, and rest assured that your comments to the Board will remain part of the official record.** However, the Board did adopt rules to reduce the number of opportunities for the public to speak during meetings as part of Rules of Order adopted recently. Starting with the Board meeting on

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

March 22, the public may offer comment at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, for three minutes each time; the opportunity to comment on Board actions immediately before member votes was eliminated.

The wave of public participation in our Township is heartening. It matters that so many residents care enough about our local democracy to attend and speak up at our Township meetings. At this time when democracy around the world is in decline, it takes all of us to contribute—to speak up, to listen, to bear witness—as we work toward greater and more meaningful public engagement in our Township.

For times, dates, and agendas for all official Township meetings, see SciOTownship.org MEETINGS.

HELP WANTED:

The Clerk is seeking Scio residents who have expertise in public finance—CPAs with experience as finance officer or auditor for local government encouraged. Residents who are retired or working with a flexible schedule who may have time to offer should send me an email at jflintoft@sciotownship.org.

SOLAR-POWERED FIRE STATION? YOU BET!

As Scio Township develops its Climate Action Plan, the Fire Department has taken steps to improve efficiency and lower both our natural gas and electricity usage. During the station renovation project, the heating and lighting systems were replaced with energy efficient systems. We put infrastructure in place to support ground-mounted solar panels and have met with a solar designer to see if a solar array would be feasible to power the fire station. Our initial meeting was positive: it appears that a system could be put in place that would meet 100% of the electrical needs of the building. We are developing a request for proposal for the project and hope to have that out to bid this spring with the goal of Scio Fire going solar this summer.



Lt. Brett Bourne and Summit, one of many firehouse dogs

REDISTRICTING COMES TO SCIO

Politically savvy Scio residents may recall that Michigan voters approved an amendment to the State Constitution in 2018 that moved the power to set political districts from the Legislature to an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. That Commission met for the first time in 2021 and, using data from the 2020 census, established new boundaries for our State House and State Senate and US Congressional districts. Similarly, the Washtenaw County Apportionment Commissioners drew a new map for the county's 9 districts that will stand until the next ten-year Census is conducted in 2030.

The Scio Township Clerk's office took this opportunity to adjust the boundaries of some of our voting precincts. Two of our precincts were in danger of exceeding the upper limit of registered voters (2,999 per precinct) before the next 10-year Census. The new boundaries take future known housing developments into consideration, and thus should stand for the next ten years. The result is the map you see on the next page. As always, the Township is split almost evenly between the school districts for Dexter and Ann Arbor. That boundary did not move with the other political boundaries and forms the basis for the irregular borders on some of the precincts. We are especially proud

to announce that now five of our precincts are able to vote at polling places within the boundaries of their precinct (up from two previously).

In the coming weeks, each registered voter in the Township will receive a letter from the Clerk describing this process and a new Voter Information card. Please read these over carefully as you may be voting in a different polling place than you are accustomed to. On the lefthand side of these nifty red-white-and-blue cards, you will find your precinct and district numbers for US Congressional, State Senate, State House, and County Commissioner districts, as well as the name of your School District. On the right is your polling location—where you vote if you are voting in person—and your name and the address at which you are registered. There's a lot of good information on these cards, and the Clerk's office is happy to print a new one for a voter should theirs ever get lost.

There are two elections in 2022: the state primary on August 2 and the state general election on November 8. If you are on the Permanent Absent Voters list (as more than half of our active voters are), **applications for absentee ballots will be mailed by mid-May and will cover both the August and the November elections.** If you are not on

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

the Permanent Absent Voters list, you can join using the application on the Township website Sciotownship.org under the DEMOCRACY tab.

Scio Township has an outstanding record of voter participation, for example 79 percent of our registered voters participated in the presidential election of 2020. Whether you are voting in person or by mail, whether you are a first-time voter, first-time voting in Scio, or a seasoned voter, the Clerk's Office is ready to assist you: by email: Clerk@sciotownship.org; phone: 734/369-9400; or in person at Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Monday through Friday, 8-5. Drop by to register to vote or to update your voter record in person at Township Hall, or online at Michigan.gov/VOTE.

2022 ELECTION DATES
AUGUST 2-STATE PRIMARY
NOVEMBER 8-STATE GENERAL

A big thank-you to our friends at the **Kiwanis Foundation**, who have agreed to host Precinct 4 at their offices at 100 N Staebler Road!

THANK YOU!

JOIN THE TEAM!

Join the team of resident volunteers who advise the Board of Trustees! Currently there are openings on the Compensation Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Environmental Sustainability Task Force, and the Planning Commission. Apply online at Sciotownship.org.

The filing deadline to run for the Trustee position that begins November 20 is 4 pm on April 19 for party affiliated candidates (who will participate in the state primary on August 2); the deadline for non-party affiliated candidates is 4 pm on July 21 (these candidates first appear on the ballot in the state general election on November 8).

SCIO PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES

PRECINCT 1

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 South Wagner Road

PRECINCT 2

Scio Township Hall, 827 North Zeeb Road

PRECINCT 3

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 South Wagner Road

PRECINCT 4

Kiwanis Club, 100N. Staebler Road

PRECINCT 5

Scio Farms Community Club House,
6655 Jackson Road

PRECINCT 6

Washtenaw Intermediate School District,
1819 South Wagner Road

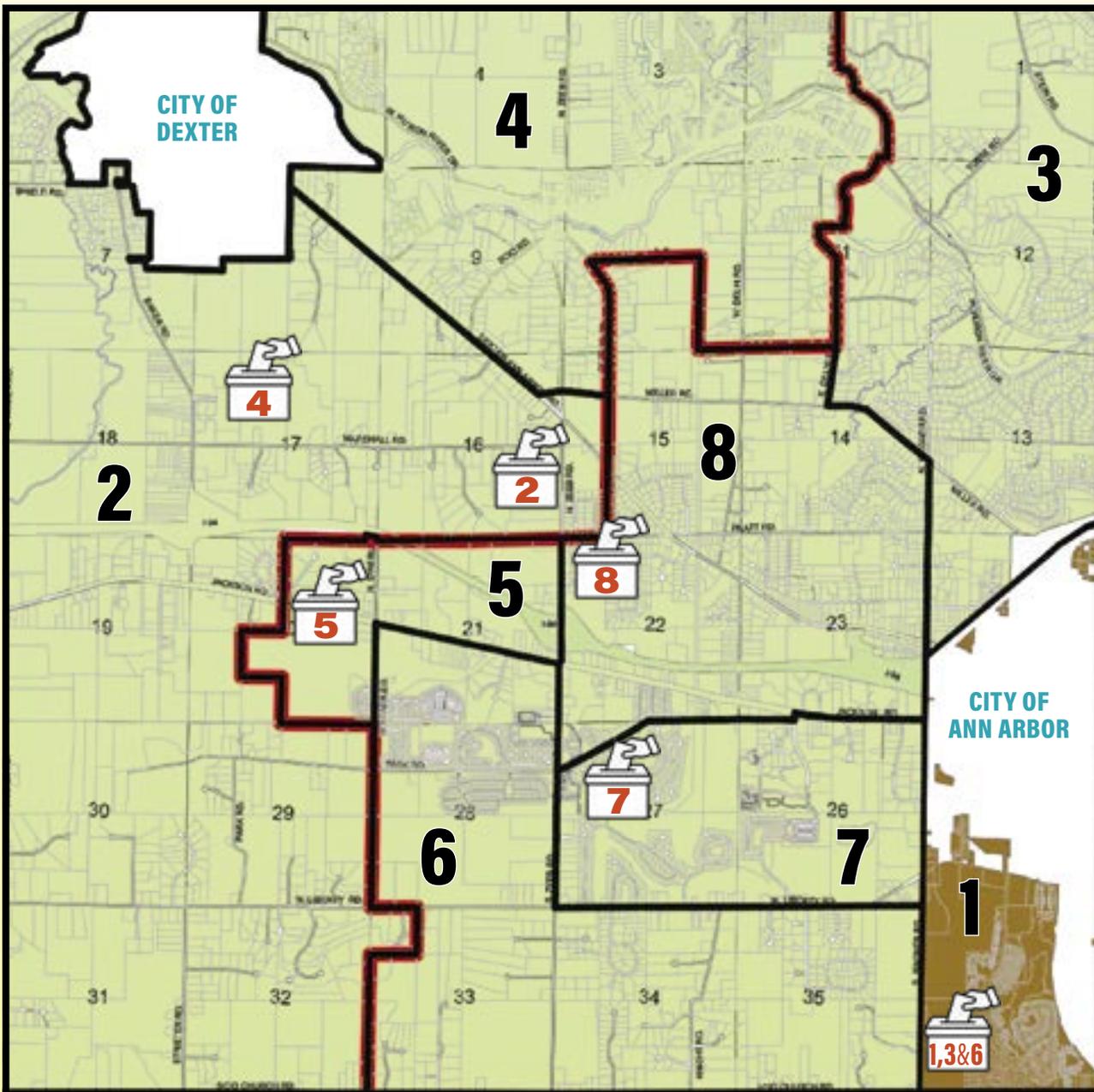
PRECINCT 7

Polo Fields Main Club House
5200 Polo Fields Drive

PRECINCT 8

Scio Community Church,
1293 North Zeeb Road

-  Precinct Boundaries
-  School District Boundary
-  State House District 33
-  County Commission District 9
-  State House District 47
-  County Commission District 1



MEET PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN, SCIO'S NEW TRUSTEE

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

With a professional background in public relations, Scio Township's newest Trustee, Patrick McLaughlin, believes that the most important skill he brings to his new position is an understanding of the necessity of listening, paying attention, and treating people with respect. He hopes to be a moderating influence on the Board because "even when we disagree we can be civil." His passion is for the Township's parks and he becomes animated when describing the long road the Township's preserves have taken from wilderness areas to accessible recreation areas with marked trails, information kiosks, and parking lots. He finds it gratifying to see more and more residents on



his walks in the Township's developed nature preserves. In addition to serving on the Parks

and Recreation Advisory Board, Patrick has also served on the Board of the Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority, a small water and sewer treatment plant operated for the Loch Alpine community off of Huron River Drive on the northern border of Scio, and into Webster. He is willing to bring his experience with infrastructure as well as with parks to his time on the Board of Trustees—"whatever is needed," he says. "I really appreciate the opportunity to serve the Township and am grateful for the support I received. I hope to earn the respect of all the citizens, whether they supported my candidacy or not."

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

Thank you from the Treasurer's Office. With spring comes the end of the 2021 tax year. Many thanks to all of you for your timely payments and the notes we receive. My usual reminder once again is to please make sure we have your correct mailing

information, especially if you are going to be on vacation. The cost of mailing, as you know, is continuing to go up.

Thank you again, Donna E. Palmer,
Township Treasurer

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU DONATE

"As we all watch the images coming out of Ukraine, it's natural to look for ways to help," State Attorney General Nessel said. "I'm urging Michiganders to take the necessary steps to research any charities claiming to help the people of Ukraine before you donate." Most charities and solicitors of charitable contributions have to register with the Attorney General's Office and file annual financial statements. To make sure you are dealing with a legitimate charity, search for Charitable Trust on the attorney general's website, [Michigan.gov/AG](https://www.michigan.gov/AG), or call 517-335-7571 to inquire about a charity.

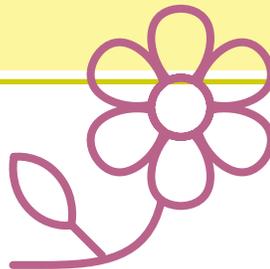
WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NATIVE PLANT EXPO AND MARKETPLACE

June 4, 9 am - 1 pm

Chelsea Community Fairgrounds

20501 Old US-12 Highway, Chelsea

Note: this is a new location for this longstanding resource. Shop for Michigan native plants from local growers, learn how to establish and maintain native landscapes, and connect with companies specializing in planning native landscapes.



DEVELOPING A RECREATION PLAN

Sciotown Township will begin to update the 2018 Paths, Preserves, Parks & Open Space Master Plan this spring. The Plan will guide where funds are allocated from the Parks and Pathways Millage and allow the Township to apply for matching funds from state and federal granting agencies. Often referred to as the Recreation Plan or PROS Plan (for Parks, Recreation, & Open Space), this plan differs from the Master Land Use Plan completed in 2021 in that it focuses exclusively on recreation facilities and activities. The idea behind this effort is to find out from residents what their concerns are in their neighborhoods, so **participation in the public-input opportunities coming this spring and summer is crucial to getting a satisfactory outcome.**

In 2020, Scio voters approved an \$8 million millage over 10 years to develop our parks and pathways. The committees have requested allocations from this fund be included in the Budget for Fiscal year 2022-2023 (the Township's fiscal year extends from April 1 to March 31) to improve safety in the Scio Ridge neighborhood, the densest community in the Township. This neighborhood has a mix of no sidewalks, partial sidewalks, no cross walks, and 3 AAATA bus stops in addition to several school bus stops. Initial funding for this project would be drawn from the Parks and Pathways millage and the Connector Road millage. A

Connecting Communities Grant from the county will also be sought.

As the Township grows and recreation needs evolve, additional grants are critical to help offset the costs of new recreation projects. With the creation of a new Recreation Plan, the Township will be eligible to apply for three types of grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR):

- The Recreation Passport grant, which is funded by taxpayers through special voluntary fees collected during driver's license registration;
- The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), which is derived from interest earned on the royalties from the sale and lease of state-owned minerals, such as oil and gas; and
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a Federally operated fund administered locally by the MDNR.

A key component of the planning process is receiving community input. The resident volunteers who staff the Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP) and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) are anxious to share their ideas about where these funds can do the most good and are looking for resident reactions and new ideas. At the same time, an evaluation and rating system is

BY CHRIS NORDSTROM
PLANNING CONSULTANT

being developed that can be applied to all ideas, so the Board of Trustees and the sponsoring committee will have some data about traffic, density, road conditions, nearby parks, and so forth in order to help prioritize new projects.

In an effort to reach out to the whole community, multiple opportunities to participate in the creation of a new Recreation Plan are in the works:

- Online survey
- Community Open House
- 30-day review period of the proposed plan
- Public Hearing

You can also send an email to each committee (parkrecchair@sciotownship.org, tapchair@sciotownship.org, or whathaway@sciotownship.org) or comment during each committee's regular meetings: TAP meets the second Wednesday of every month at 4 pm; PRAB meets the first Monday of every month at 5:30.

News and events associated with the Recreation Plan will be posted on the Township website as soon as dates are finalized. We hope you will join us in the coming months to help develop this important document to guide recreation-related decisions for the next five years.

THE RIDE 2045

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide) has developed draft recommendations for its Long-Range Plan, "TheRide 2045," based on feedback received from the public this past fall. "TheRide 2045" provides a vision, a long-term system plan, and shorter-term implementation steps for public transit in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. The plan focuses on improving social equity by increasing access to jobs and housing, while also contributing to a cleaner environment and a vibrant economy.

These draft recommendations will be presented at the Scio Transportation Alternatives Planning (TAP) Committee meeting on April 13 at 4:00pm. Join us to learn more about "TheRide 2045," and provide your comments on these draft recommendations. Or visit the project website, theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045, to learn more and to find more ways to share your feedback.

A UNIQUE LAND CONSERVATION PROJECT



Photo credit: By Barry Lonik

BY BARRY LONIK,
LAND PROTECTION CONSULTANT

A land conservation project that began with a chance conversation three years ago recently reached its conclusion when Scio Township purchased two conservation easements from the Frederick Andres Trust. In 2019, while stacking wood at my house with the farmer neighbor who delivered it, I learned that the historic 160-acre Aprill farm, located at the northwest corner of Scio Church and Zeeb Roads on the Township's southern boundary, was available for purchase. Previously it was thought the property was slated for development. In prior communications Mr. Aprill had stated he was letting his children decide the fate of the scenic farm just over two miles from the City of Ann Arbor border.

I soon learned that Mr. Aprill had passed away, and I tracked down his six kids (all daughters)

with the help of his published obituary. We all met, and I made an offer to purchase the property on behalf of the Township's Land Preservation Commission utilizing Scio's dedicated land preservation millage. **In July of 2020, Scio purchased the farm for \$2.3 million, the first of two unprecedented, visionary actions taken by the Board of Trustees.**

Being entirely agricultural, the Aprill farm is not a property the Township wanted to own long-term. In a second unprecedented action, in March of 2020 Scio sold the property to the Frederick G. Andres Trust for cash and mortgages totaling \$2.3 Million. We then set about lining up funds to purchase conservation easements, which came from two federal grant programs and the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Greenbelt program. Together with Scio's millage,

the easements were purchased on February 18, 2022. The proceeds were used to retire the mortgages so the Andres Trust owns the property free and clear, subject to the perpetual agreement preventing division, construction, surface alteration, and any other activity that would impair the property's conservation value while allowing for agricultural use. In this way, the Township accomplished the goal of conserving land worth \$2.3 million for the cost of the conservation easement alone. This process has become known as **Buy-Protect-Sell** and Scio Township has become a pioneer in this innovative way to conserve precious green space in an ever-developing world.

The property has a mile of paved road frontage two miles south of the Zeeb Road I-94 interchange. It features a high percentage of prime agricultural soils and one of the few long-distance views in the area, being situated atop a glacial moraine. It is adjacent to a 66-acre farm property under different ownership, also protected by a Scio conservation easement.

The Andres Farm is employing organic practices and restoration agriculture to build soil health with native plants, creating habitat to attract pollinators and songbirds, planting fruit and nut trees, and offering you-pick strawberries and raspberries.

Scio Township's land preservation program is funded by a dedicated millage that voters first passed in 2004 and renewed in 2012, both by large margins. The program has attracted over \$10 million of matching funds from other sources and protected 1,583 acres so far, with more projects set to close in the coming months.

BUY-PROTECT-SELL

Scio Township's land preservation program has used two means to permanently conserve land: purchase of natural area land that is owned and managed by the Township and made accessible to the public as preserves, and purchase of conservation easements (CE) where the land remains in private ownership but the ability to develop it is prevented. Scio has now combined these two "tools" in a couple of major agricultural projects where an owner passed away, the heirs do not want to pursue a CE, and the only way to conserve the property is to purchase it. Being farmland, Scio doesn't want to own the property long-term so we've negotiated "buy-protect-sell" (BPS) arrangements where the land is purchased, conserved, and then sold to a new owner. BPS projects are only being done in a few locations around the country but already a couple more Scio landowners have expressed interest in this process. In addition to the forever protection associated with the conservation easement, Scio's evaluation criteria for proposals submitted place an emphasis on local food production (fruits, vegetables, cattle, flowers, etc.) and related uses.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE REPORT

DID YOU KNOW THAT WASHTENAW COUNTY IS DEVELOPING A CLIMATE PLAN?

Resilient Washtenaw is a county-wide plan to achieve just carbon neutrality by 2035, an effort committed to equity, public health, and sustainability. The Scio Environmental Sustainability Task Force is collaborating with Resilient Washtenaw as we develop Scio-specific plans to address climate change.

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has a long history of actions and decisions intended to preserve the natural world and promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources. These actions have increased in intensity and frequency as the science around climate change has coalesced on the man-made nature of climate change, and in recognition of the impacts to the County and the world if actions are not taken to prevent further warming of the planet.

Given the urgency of climate change and the need for broad action, the Board of Commissioners has set a goal of carbon neutral county operations by 2030 and carbon neutral county-wide emissions by 2035. While the County has taken steps to reduce the organizational footprint, these first steps are not sufficient to meet their goal within this timeframe. In other words, the ideas and commitment of ordinary people are needed to make this ambitious goal a reality.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Over the next few months, there will be many opportunities to participate. Here's how you can get involved:

- Visit ResilientWashtenaw.org, subscribe to email updates, add your ideas to the MAP, and check out the RESOURCE page to learn more about climate science, impacts we are facing, and ongoing work

BY JAN CULBERTSON, CHAIR,
PLANNING COMMISSION

- Don't miss the 20-minute video, Climate Change in SE Michigan, from GLISA (Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments), a collaborative effort between the University of Michigan and Michigan State: youtube.com/watch?v=xOjrDvpYqc4&t=12s
- Look for opportunities to engage on climate action as the U-M School for Environment and Sustainability Team develops a full community engagement plan for implementation this fall, seas.umich.edu
- The Scio Environmental Task Force welcomes new members too! Contact Jan Culbertson at PCChair@sciotownship.org to apply.



GELMAN UPDATE

On February 17, 2022, Scio Township hosted a Zoom Town Hall on recent and future Scio homeowner well-testing for Dioxane. The panel presentation included representatives from the Washtenaw County Health Department, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Quantum Environmental, a local consulting firm. Residents were invited to submit questions in advance and during the meeting. Approximately 130 residents participated in the meeting. The Zoom recording of the meeting has been posted on the Gelman page of the Scio Township website, on the COMMUNITY tab. Panelist responses to resident questions and slides that were shown at the Town Hall will also be posted on the website.

FUTURE RESIDENTIAL WELL-TESTING

A third round of residential well-testing will be conducted in late April. Approximately 34 wells have been identified for sampling and letters from Scio Township have been sent to all of these homeowners. If a resident has not received a letter from the Township on well-testing at this time, then their well was not selected. **This round of well-testing will be primarily for homes north of I-94, west of Maple Road, and east of Honey Creek.**

The samples will be collected by Quantum Environmental and analyzed by PACE laboratory in Florida. The 522 Method will be utilized; this method can detect Dioxane contamination down to 0.12 ppb (parts per billion).

A fourth round of well-testing will be conducted sometime in the early summer. Residents interested in having their wells tested are

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE

encouraged to submit the online Well Testing Sign-Up form, which is posted on the Township website. This round of well-testing will include approximately 30 wells. Selection of the wells to be tested will depend on the results of the third round of testing, geographic features, and resident requests. We will not necessarily be able to accommodate all resident requests.

The results of each round of the 522 Method Dioxane testing will be shared with the Washtenaw County Health Department and EGLE. Sampling data will be included in the EGLE database and will be public. This data will be used to advocate for future additional testing by EGLE or Gelman and possible placement of future monitoring wells.

SPRING UPDATE ON ROADS

Spring is finally here and so are warmer and dryer days (hopefully)! This time of year is always a busy one at the Washtenaw County Road Commission, as we clean up the road system from the spring thaw and prepare for the 2022 Construction Season (also known as Summer).

THERE IS A LOT OF ROAD WORK PLANNED IN AND AROUND SCIO TOWNSHIP THIS YEAR, INCLUDING:

- Construction of a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Liberty and Zeeb Roads (the intersection will be closed for approximately 8 - 10 weeks)
- Resurfacing sections of Huron River Drive and Scio Church Road

- Painting the E. Delhi and the Maple (Foster) historic bridges (paint will match the existing color on each structure)
- Seal coating (both chip sealing and fog sealing) sections of Island Lake, Zeeb, Jackson, Miller, Newport, and Maple Roads (this treatment helps extend the life of pavement already in good or fair condition).

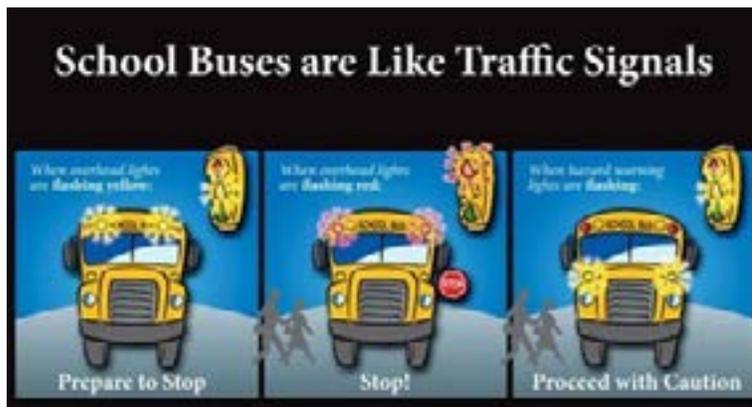
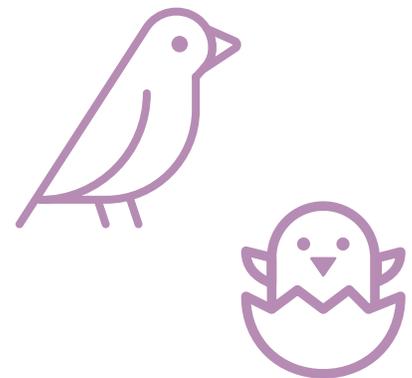
Please slow down and give road crews plenty of room to work. We know lane restrictions and road closures can be frustrating, but these restrictions help WCRC employees and contractors stay safe. This is why we work hard to communicate with the public in advance of planned roadwork and closures. There are many ways to receive these notifications, including:

BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

- Subscribe to receive road updates and/or the Weekly Road Work Schedule via email at wcroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates/
- Follow [@WashtenawRoads](https://www.facebook.com/WashtenawRoads) on Facebook and Twitter
- Contact WCRC at (734) 761-1500 or wrcr@wcroads.org.

Lastly, we hope you can join us for our annual Virtual Construction Season Kick-off Meeting on Monday, May 9 at 11 am. Staff will provide an overview of the entire construction season and answer audience questions. Visit wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/ for more details.

We hope you have a great spring. See you out on the roads!



LETTER FROM THE UTILITIES DIRECTOR

STEVE WYZGOSKI, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

There have been two recent reports of two men wearing masks, entering Scio Township homes, stating they were from “waterworks” and in at least one of the events asking to look “under the kitchen sink.” The men were driving a dark SUV. Neither of the homes had their front door locked at the time of the event. Also, neither of the homes was connected to the Scio Township water system. The Washtenaw County Sheriff Department has been notified. Thanks to resident Pam Boyd for sharing this information!

Please note that the Scio Township Utilities Department drives white vehicles with Scio Township identification. We will provide advance notification and receive prior approval before entering your home to provide service or make repairs. Also, Utilities Staff normally has

clothing with Scio Township lettering and will have an Identification badge or card. Scio Staff rarely must enter a residence within our water supply system and never enters residences with well water and septic systems.

If you are approached by people claiming to be from “waterworks” (or any Utility) ask for identification and the purpose for their visit. If anything seems suspicious to you, contact the Washtenaw Sheriff’s Department at (734) 994-2911 and provide them with as much information as you are safely able to gather. If you are in an emergency, call 911.

On the construction front, this spring improvements are underway for both the water and sewer systems. The Air Relief Valve (ARV) Project will involve bypassing and construction

of a new ARV in the Jackson Road median along with improvements to the Township’s connection point to the City of Ann Arbor’s sanitary sewer system near the intersection of Dexter and Maple Roads. The Liberty Road Water Main Project will provide improved service and reliability by adding a southern loop from the Liberty/Wagner Road intersection westward to the Polo Fields community.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SHAWN SLANE

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

If you’ve ever come to the Township Hall to have your water bill explained to you, chances are you left feeling like you’d been treated with friendliness from a well-informed, experienced staff person. In other words, chances are you were helped by Shawn Slane, who has been working in the Utilities department for the past 9 years. Shawn was raised in the Chelsea area, and began working for the Township in Accounting in February of 2005. Eight years later she moved to Utilities. “I thoroughly enjoyed providing services to the residents of Scio through the years,” said Shawn. “The Utilities team has been great to work with, a very collaborative team. We had to adapt to provide services during the pandemic and I’m proud of this department’s adaptability.” March 31 was her last day on the job.

Shawn is ready for retirement, and her husband Rick, who is already retired, is metaphorically



Photo credit: RobertReadPhoto.com

sitting in the RV in the driveway with the engine running. They are looking forward to traveling out west, and to exploring Michigan with their adult children and their families. Shawn is an avid mushroom hunter, a skill she hopes to

share with her kids on family vacations. She and her husband Rick enjoy kayaking, fishing, and swimming, and hope to do all that and play euchre in a cabin on Lake Superior and on Lake Michigan as soon as it feels safe enough to get the whole family together again. They have a new baby granddaughter they’ve only seen on Zoom! Shawn said the pandemic gave her decision to retire more urgency. She and Rick hope to find a smaller home on enough acres to feel secluded, and on some water—a good place for the family to come and visit!

Cheers Shawn, your conscientiousness and your smiling approach to every day have made you a treasure to have in the Township Hall these 17 years. Best wishes for a long, healthy, and adventuresome retirement!



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
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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

Fire@sciotownship.org

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County Water Resources

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

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maciejewskij@washtenaw.org

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