

# Scio Township

## Fall 2009

### COMMUNITY REPORT

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK — BY SPAULDING CLARK, SUPERVISOR

## Township Updates

### Discussions on Public Safety continue

**A**s I noted last quarter, discussions are now beginning with regard to consolidating fire services in the western Washtenaw areas. The Townships of Scio, Dexter, Webster and the Village of Dexter have all agreed to meet and begin this discussion. Other interested parties such as Lima Township, Sylvan Township and the Village of Chelsea may sit in; however, the initial focus will be on the adjoining four communities. The Township Board will continue its commitment to investigating ways in which we can improve services and/or lower costs. Irrespective of the outcome of the fire consolidation discussions, we will continue to explore alternatives that hold the promise of improving fire services where possible. We have also advised Washtenaw County that we intend to add additional Sheriff's deputies to our current contract. This effort was

held up while we were waiting for the results of a federal COPS grant application which had been filed with the assistance of the Sheriff's Department. The grant was not approved, and so we are now taking the necessary steps to hire additional deputies. Unfortunately, the contract with Washtenaw County for police services has provisions for decreasing deputies, but no provisions for increasing them. Thus we are awaiting the County's interpretation of the contract and their stance on the associated costs of adding deputies.

### Roads, a boulevard and a bridge

As reported in the summer Scio newsletter, the Township continues to work with the Washtenaw County

*From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2*

EAST DELHI BRIDGE CONSERVANCY BY RICHARD COOK

## Township Residents Celebrate Reopening of Historic East Delhi Bridge

**A**fter being closed for over four years, rehabilitation of the East Delhi Bridge was completed, and the bridge reopened in late August. The 120-year-old bridge is one of a handful of wrought iron truss bridges in Michigan still in use. The East Delhi Bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, and is the only bridge in Michigan that is designated a local historic district. On September 13, a warm, late-summer Sunday, the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy and Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) hosted a celebra-

tion to rededicate the scenic and historic bridge. Many residents of Scio Township and Washtenaw County were in attendance.

### Funding came from many sources

The rehabilitation, requested by the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy in lieu of replacement by a concrete structure, was the result of several years of fact-finding, negotiation, and planning by the members of the Conservancy, the WCRC, and State and local government, many of whom attended the celebration with their families. Ninety-five percent of \$1.2 million in construction costs was covered by funds from the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program. The remaining construction and engineering costs were covered by the WCRC, Scio Township, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and contributions from area citizens. Delhi Mills residents agreed to cover the cost of bridge maintenance with a special assessment tax.

*East Delhi Bridge continued on page 2*



Joining in the ribbon cutting were (l to r) Steve Puuri, Managing Director of the WCRC, George Schimmel, of the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy, State Representative Pam Byrnes, Road Commissioner Doug Fuller, County Commissioner Mark Ouimet, and Richard Cook, also of the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy



**The Jackson Road improvements are on time, and it is expected that the boulevard will be completed and open before the snow flies.**

*From The Supervisor's Desk continued from page 1*

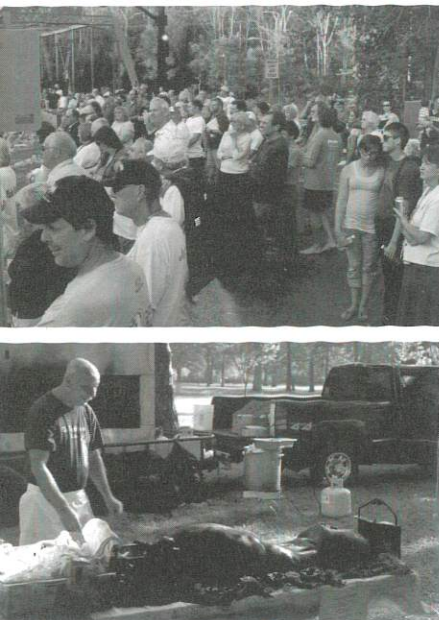
Road Commission to try and find ways to improve our local roads. The Township was able to provide a modest financial incentive to the refurbishment of the roads in the Wing Meadows Subdivision through Road Commission matching money, and we hope be able to provide similar modest incentives in the future for similar projects (see related article on page 5). The Jackson Road improvements are on time, and it is expected that the boulevard will be completed and open before the snow flies. The Delhi Bridge is once again open, and no, the Township had no say in putting up the stoplights on the bridge.

### **Public utilities under review**

Not only are roads an issue of concern, we also continue to examine our future needs for water and sewer within the designated utilities areas of the Township. We continue to meet regularly with representatives of the Ann Arbor Utilities Department, seeking to resolve currently outstanding issues and preparing for our future.

### **Changes on the Board of Trustees**

In August the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Tom Hanson as Township Trustee. In a somewhat peremptory fashion, Tom's employer requested that Tom move to Dallas to undertake a new assignment within his law firm. Given those circumstances, the Township Board moved to replace Tom as quickly as possible so as to avoid the necessity and expense of a special election. The Board appointed David Read to fill Tom's seat. David, however, will have to run again for the remainder of Tom's term in the general election in November of 2010. David brings with him over 29 years of experience in various levels of business management, including client services, sales and marketing support, with a strong background in business startups, turnaround management, operational improvements and strategic planning. Not only an accomplished business person, David is also a former Master Gardener, he has completed several levels of wildland firefighter training, he served as a volunteer on the Township's Public Safety Committee, and he also currently serves as the Editor of the Township's quarterly newsletter. He is a welcome addition to the Township Board.



*East Delhi Bridge continued from page 1*

### **Local businesses contributed to the celebration**

The celebration included a picnic dinner for about 250 at Delhi Metropark, a concert by local music legend Dick Siegel and his trio, and a rededication ceremony at the bridge. The Lighthouse Café in Dexter provided catering for the dinner, highlighted by a succulent roasted pig. Other contributors to the celebration included Ed Surovell, Washtenaw County Road Commissioners David Rutledge, Douglas Fuller, and Fred Veigel, Ruhlig's Farm Market, Uptown Coney Island of Scio Township, Busch's Supermarket of Pinckney, Meijer on Jackson Road, the Foggy Bottom Coffee House of Dexter, Dexter Cider Mill, the Huron-Clinton

Metropolitan Authority, Zen Buddhist Temple of Ann Arbor, Quest Productions and the Scio Township Fire Department. Local residents Joe Gramattico, Dan Green, and Dan Tomshany brought antique cars. Local residents also provided many tasty dishes to add to the feast.

### **Help still needed**

Many people who attended the celebration generously made contributions toward the purchase of a State of Michigan Historic Marker. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to AAACF. Be sure to write "Donation for the Delhi Bridge Conservancy Fund" on the memo line and mail to: Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, 301 North Main Street, Suite 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1133. Your contribution may be tax deductible – check with your tax preparer.

### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

## **Residents urged to lock up**

**S**ince September 1, 2009 there have been five residential home invasions within Scio Township with several others in neighboring communities. Deputies continue to work on suspects. Most of the crimes involve forced entry through a door or window and result in the theft of electronics, cash and guns. Residents and businesses are encouraged to call in all suspicious activities. Remember to lock your doors.

**Most of the crimes involve forced entry through a door or window**





## Electronic Delivery of the Newsletter

...having the  
newsletter  
delivered  
electronically  
is very  
popular with  
Township  
residents

**W**e are now able to offer a paperless delivery system for this newsletter, saving the Township money and resources. Many of you have taken advantage of this feature and I hope it is working well for you. Unfortunately, my previous instructions on how to subscribe to this service were not complete. I told everyone to enter the Mail Code from the address label, but I forgot that there are two Mail Codes on the address label. One of the codes looks something like ECRWSH\*\*RDD1 or ECRW55\*\*RD22 and is used by the Post Office for sorting and grouping of mail for delivery. The other Mail Code is comprised of parts of your name and address. For instance, if your last name is Smith and you live at 1234 Main Street, your Mail Code would be SMIT123MAINST. This is the Mail Code we need you to enter when subscribing to our delivery system. This code is our only link between your email address and your street address.

As mentioned last quarter, if you choose to have the newsletter electronically "delivered", your household will no longer receive a paper copy, saving money and resources. All you'll need is your email address and the above-mentioned Mail Code from the address label on this quarter's newsletter. With that information at hand, go to:

[http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/scio\\_newsletter\\_subscribe.html](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/scio_newsletter_subscribe.html) and follow the instructions.

Please note that the above address uses underscores ( \_ ) not spaces. If you have any problems or questions, let us know at [newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us). It is possible to have multiple email addresses from the same household set up to receive these notices. Just be sure to use the correct Mail Code when subscribing.

### CLERK'S CORNER BY NANCY HEDBERG, CLERK

## November is election time again!

Don't  
forget to  
**VOTE**  
November 3

**N**ovember 3rd's ballot has only one issue: an additional millage request for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD). We are allowed by State law to consolidate precincts for school elections. This move was very successful in May, so we have combined precincts again for the November 3rd election. These changes are for school elections ONLY. When voting next year, you will be returning to your regular polling place.

### New polling places for some precincts

**Precinct 1** – Dexter Senior Center,  
7720 Ann Arbor St.

**Precincts 2, 3 & 4** – Scio Township  
Hall, 827 No. Zeeb Rd.

**Precinct 5** – Scio Farms MHP  
Clubhouse, 6655 Jackson Rd.

**Precincts 6 & 8** – Scio Fire Hall,  
1055 No. Zeeb Rd.

**Precincts 7 & 9** – WISD,  
1819 So. Wagner Rd.

*Please Note:* Only Precincts 4, 8, and 9 have changed polling locations. Voters residing in these precincts will receive a postcard in the mail with pertinent information.

### Remember to register!

Registration cutoff date for the November 3rd election is October 5th. Absentee ballots will be available by October 14th. The next registration cutoff date is January 4.

### Reminder about Permanent Absent Voter list

We maintain a Permanent Absent Voter (AV) list and if you meet any of the following qualifications, you may request to be added to this list: you are 60 years or older; physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; because of the tenets of your religion; or because you are an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside. Voters on the permanent AV list automatically receive an Absent Voter application before each election by mail. When the application is completed and returned to the Clerk's office, an Absentee Ballot is mailed to your home as soon as the ballots are available.

### Paper of Record

Many notices are required by Michigan law to be published in a "newspaper of general circulation". In the past, notices were published in the Ann Arbor News. When the Ann Arbor News ceased publication and AnnArbor.com took its place, we had planned to publish notices in its Thursday and Sunday print publications. However, we have learned that published notices must be placed in a paper that has been in existence for at least 12 months. The Dexter Leader was also listed with our County Clerk as a 'newspaper of record' for Scio Township. If you routinely check official public notices, please note that you will find our published notices in The Dexter Leader.



## Wind Energy and a possible Trail System

Ongoing areas of planning center around a set of Zoning Ordinance amendments, the newest of which is now called Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)

It probably comes as no surprise that development activity in the Township continues to be slow. This leaves plenty of room on Planning Commission agendas for other planning activities. Ongoing areas of planning center around a set of Zoning Ordinance amendments, the newest of which is now called Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)

### Wind Energy added to Zoning Ordinance

The intent of this new ordinance is to permit the effective and efficient use of WECS by regulating the siting, design, and installation of such systems to protect public health, safety, and welfare and to ensure compatibility of land uses in the vicinity of WECS. Some of the provisions of this new ordinance are offered here but are still in draft form. By the time this report reaches you, the language should be finalized and copies will be available for review.

Wind Energy Conversion Systems not to exceed 10kW in size and less than 70 feet in height will be considered a permitted accessory use in districts zoned as A-1 and E-R. In all other districts WECS less than 70 feet in height will be allowed as a conditional use, requiring a public hearing and site plan approval. WECS 70 feet and greater in height will be considered a conditional use only in districts with RC, A-1, E-R and R-1 zoning. Commercial grade WECS with heights not greater than 250 feet will be considered a conditional use only in districts with RC, A-1 and I-3 zoning. Siting of WECS within a property will be strictly controlled by property-line setbacks of 1.5 times the height of the WECS. Further controls will limit sound pressure levels to 55db(A), regulate color, grade clearance, design safety certification by professional engineers and much more.

### Help us plan our newest initiative - Non-Motorized Paths

In our continuing effort to implement the newly adopted Master Land Use Plan and to respond to the priorities we heard expressed by Scio residents during that process, a new planning initiative is taking shape - Non-Motorized Paths Planning. Recent events and newly developed conditions provide the means for moving this initiative forward.

### Residents want a Trail System

In the April 2007 Township of Scio Survey of Residents, 67% of those responding indicated strong support for de-

veloping "a network of bike trails in the township". Then, participants in the Planning Fair held in August 2007 listed development of non-motorized pathways in the Township fifth in overall importance behind maintaining rural character, continued control of future growth, preservation of open space and natural features, and preservation of farmland. In February 2008, the Scio Township Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was adopted. It established a set of goals, one of which is "to establish an interconnected, multi-modal, easily accessible, and safe trail system". In May 2009, the Scio Township Master Land Use Plan was adopted and calls for "development of an interconnected system of trails along major roads connecting existing parks, neighborhoods, Township facilities, Mill Creek, the Huron River and adjacent communities." The Village of Dexter, the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, among others, have already adopted non-motorized transportation plans. Early this summer, the Planning Commission developed a small budget for planning activities, including non-motorized path planning, and the Board of Trustees voted its approval.

### Planning will be in Three Phases

Since then a work plan has been drafted which is envisioned as a three-phase planning effort to take place over the next eighteen months to two years. Each of the 3 phases is expected to last about six months. Phase 1 will include Fact Finding and Concept Formation; phase 2 will comprise of Priority Setting, Schematic Design and Cost Estimating; phase 3 will be Design Refinement, Funding Strategies and Public Education.

The Non-Motorized Paths initiative will be formulated by a study group with representation from the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, Land Preservation Commission, Parks Advisory Committee, Village of Dexter Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, one citizen representative from each of our 5 Master Plan planning areas (i.e., the four quadrants of the Township plus the Jackson Road area) and with Carlisle-Wortman Associates as the planners. Early bird (7:30-9:30am) monthly meetings would be held every 2nd Thursday of each month.

Six meetings for Phase 1 are tentatively outlined as: Meeting 1 - Purpose, Goals, and Review of Study Materials; Meeting 2 - Visioning; Meeting 3 - Visioning Results and Priority Setting; Meeting 4 - Draft Concepts; Meeting 5 - Funding and Costs; Meeting 6 - Public Presentation

### We need your help

We are anxious to hear your comments, especially if this initiative is precisely the kind of project you have been looking for. Please email me ([arscotta@umich.edu](mailto:arscotta@umich.edu)) your interest in serving on the study group and include any experiences/skills you have that make this a great fit for you and us.





## Wing Meadows Rebuilds its Own Roads

**L**ocated at the northeast corner of Zeeb and Pratt Roads, just across from the Montessori School, Wing Meadows is a quiet residential development built in the late 1960's. Two public roads serve the 32 homes, Wing Drive and Harold Circle, both of which are classified as "township local roads". Currently, the money allotted to the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) by the State of Michigan for township local roads is just \$1,551/mile per year. Since Wing Drive and Harold Circle together total just 0.61 of a mile, there is only a \$946/year available in the WCRC

budget to care for these roads. After plowing them several times each winter, not much is left for anything else.



### A lengthy and complex process

Given the length of time since the two roads were built and the lack of regular maintenance, it comes as no surprise that their surfaces had fallen into extremely poor repair. With no outside funds in sight, the residents of Wing Meadows decided earlier this year to ask the WCRC to impose a special assessment district (SAD) to pay the costs of rebuilding. A petition to impose an SAD for road repair, signed by a majority of the Wing Meadows residents, was then submitted to the WCRC. This led to a series of public hearings, the drafting of construction

plans, bids from contractors, and the issuing of bonds to finance the project. Finally, on Monday, September 14th, construction began. First, the entire surface was pulverized into gravel by a huge "rototiller". It was then re-graded to create the proper crown, compacted, and treated with brine. The final step involved laying two 1.5" courses of asphalt – and by the weekend, Wing Meadows once again had first-class roadways.

### Residents taxed themselves

The total cost of the project was \$122,000 (about \$30,000 under estimates), with an innovative use of WCRC matching funds providing about 20% of the total and the neighborhood SAD funding the remaining of \$98,560. This amount was divided equally among the 32 homeowners each being assessed \$3,080. This assessment could be paid either in cash up-front (thus avoiding interest charges) or in annual installments of \$308 plus interest over a ten-year period. Interest on the bonds came in at a very reasonable 3.50%. Eighteen owners decided to pay cash, while the remaining 14 elected annual installments to be included on their regular tax bills.



### WCRC worked in cooperation with the neighborhood

El Wier, a resident of Wing Meadows, was pleased with the cooperative approach by the WCRC. "They were very helpful, from beginning to end. Roy Townsend, Director of County Engineering, and Mark McCulloch, Project Engineer, were especially important. The project wouldn't have happened without them." If the roads are properly maintained this time around, they should remain serviceable for at least twenty years. Discussion of the type and cost of such maintenance will be covered in a future article.





Protecting scenic, natural and agricultural resources are of tremendous benefit to the Scio Township community.

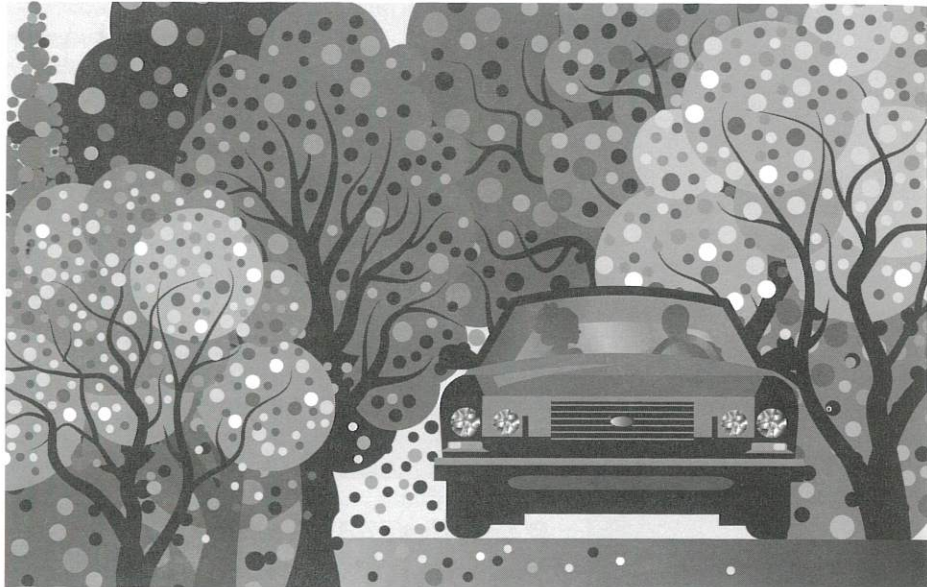
## More Scio Land Protected

Scio Township has closed on a second major agricultural land preservation project. On June 22, Paul Scherdt signed a conservation easement to protect 100 acres of his farm property on the eastern outskirts of the Village of Dexter. The property is bounded by Dexter-Ann Arbor Road and features hayfields, mature woodlots, wetlands and headwater areas for Mill Creek and Honey Creek. The project was made possible through a \$500,000 grant from the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Scio Township's land preservation millage contributed \$732,000.

### Protecting our agricultural resources is important

This property is another addition to lands preserved in Scio Township via the conservation millage. The Scherdt farm, along with other conservation easements and public lands, will permanently provide open space, water quality protection and wildlife habitat. As is usually the case with agricultural conservation easements, there is no public access on the

Scherdt property. Nevertheless, protecting its scenic, natural and agricultural resources are of tremendous benefit to the Scio Township community. The Scio Township Board of Trustees and Land Preservation Commission are enormously grateful to Paul for his commitment to keeping his land open and productive forever.



## LAND PRESERVATION PHOTO CONTEST BY IRWIN MARTIN, LPC SECRETARY

### Land Preservation Photo Contest

We now have six beautiful properties ready to test your photographic skills.

The Land Preservation Photo Contest was announced in the Fall 2009 Scio Township Community Report. The purpose of this contest is to highlight the beauty of the protected properties and to show why they were chosen to be protected. At the time of printing, we were unsure whether access would be allowed to the Davenport farm for photography. Mr. Davenport has agreed that photographers may have access to his property if they call ahead. Please call Mr. Davenport at 734-395-5595 before you enter his property. The farm is on the east side of Parker Road and north side of Marshall, just east of the bridge over Mill Creek.

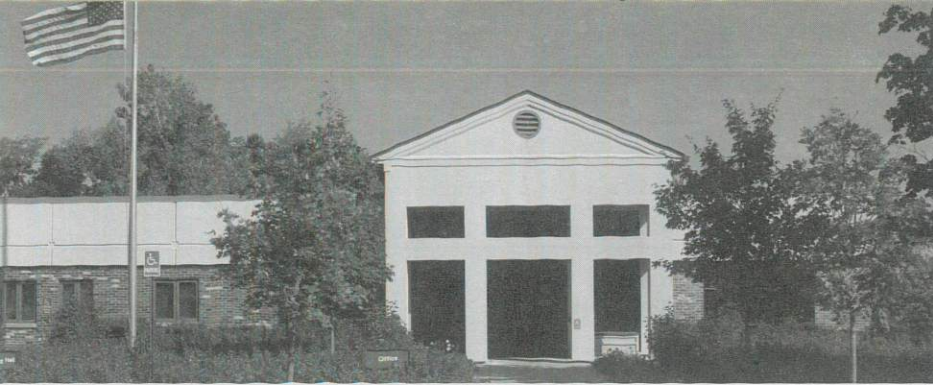


### More property preserved and available for photography

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, our Township has protected another farm via purchase of a conservation easement. The Scherdt property is a beautiful farm surrounded by wooded lots. Mr. Scherdt has graciously agreed to allow photographers on his property. Photographers are welcome to come by any time. While there is no need to call first, it is recommended that the photographer stop by the house and inform the landowner when he/she arrives. The address is 6541 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. Please note that the easement area (the subject of the contest) is beyond the buildings and the first hedgerow.

We now have six beautiful properties ready to test your photographic skills. Remember the contest runs until June 1, 2010. Questions and entries may be submitted to Scio-Photos@gmail.com.





# Get involved in your community

## Scio Township Information

Scio Township Hall  
827 North Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 665-2123; [info@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:info@twp.scio.mi.us)  
visit us at: [www.twp.scio.mi.us](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us)

## Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Utility Department Hours

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Township Board of Trustees

Spaulding Clark, Supervisor . . . [esclark@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:esclark@twp.scio.mi.us)  
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk . . . . . [nhedberg@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:nhedberg@twp.scio.mi.us)  
Donna Palmer, Treasurer . . . . [depalmer@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:depalmer@twp.scio.mi.us)  
Richard DeLong, Trustee  
Christine Green, Trustee  
Jack Knowles, Trustee  
David Read, Trustee  
Darrell A. Fecho, Township Manager (734) 665-2123

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall. E-mail sent to [townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us) will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

## Scio Township Department Heads

Carl Ferch, Fire Chief. . . . . (734) 665-6001  
Scott Martin – Utilities Director . . . . . (734) 665-2606  
James Merte – Assessing . . . . . (734) 665-2123

## Phone Numbers

Emergencies . . . . . 911  
Administrative Offices . . . . . (734) 665-2132  
Fire Department Administration . . . . . (734) 665-6001  
Sheriff's Department,  
Zeeb Road Sub-Station . . . . . (734) 994-8105  
Utilities Emergency . . . . . (734) 651-4770  
Utilities Administration . . . . . (734) 665-2606  
County Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900  
County Drain Commissioner: . . . . . (734) 994-2525

## The Scio Township Community Report

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the Scio Township Board  
of Trustees for the resi-  
dents of Scio Township.

### Editor

David Read

### Graphic Design

Julie Tanguay

### Photographer

David Read

## County Information:

### Washtenaw County Road Commission

(734) 761-1500; [wrc@wccroads.org](mailto:wrc@wccroads.org)

### Washtenaw County Commissioners:

District 1 – Mark Ouimet  
(734) 663-0927; [ouimetm@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:ouimetm@ewashtenaw.org)

District 2 – Ken Schwartz  
(734) 686-4445; [schwartzk@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:schwartzk@ewashtenaw.org)

District 3 – Jessica Ping Mills  
(734) 260-7844; [pingmillsj@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:pingmillsj@ewashtenaw.org)

District 9 – Leah Gunn  
(734) 663-7307; [gunnl@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:gunnl@ewashtenaw.org)

District 10 – Conan Smith  
(734) 662-0268; [smithco@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:smithco@ewashtenaw.org)

## State Information:

### State Representative

District 52 – Pam Byrnes  
(517) 373-0828;  
[pambyrnes@house.mi.gov](mailto:pambyrnes@house.mi.gov)

### State Senator:

District 18 – Liz Brater  
(517) 373-2406;  
[SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov)

### Governor:

Jennifer M. Granholm  
(517) 373-3400;  
e-mail via [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)

## Federal Information:

### U.S. Representatives:

District 7 – Mark Schauer  
(202) 225-6276;  
e-mail via [www.schauer.house.gov/contact](http://www.schauer.house.gov/contact)

District 15 – John Dingell  
(202) 225-4071;  
e-mail via [www.house.gov/dingell](http://www.house.gov/dingell)

### U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow  
(202) 224-4822;  
[senator@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:senator@stabenow.senate.gov)

Carl Levin  
(202) 224-6221;  
e-mail via [www.levin.senate.gov](http://www.levin.senate.gov)

### President of the United States:

Barack H. Obama  
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appropriate  
locations will  
benefit our  
residents,  
existing  
businesses, our  
economy and  
environment.

The Scio Township Board of Trustees is looking for individuals who might be interested in serving on the Township's Economic Development Corporation (EDC). One of the primary and pertinent purposes of this corporation is to assist in the attraction, relocation, retention or expansion of business organizations within Scio Township. Encouraging business development in appropriate locations will benefit our residents, existing businesses, our economy and environment. Individuals interested in serving on the EDC should send information or their resumes outlining their backgrounds and interests to:

Spaulding Clark, *Township Supervisor*  
827 N. Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-1599

Or by email to: [ESClark@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:ESClark@twp.scio.mi.us)

