



Scio Info

Township of Scio • Established 1833 • Winter 2003 Edition

Land Preservation

Local efforts toward land preservation are beginning to pay dividends. As you may have noted from recent Ann Arbor News articles, Washtenaw County has agreed to purchase property in Scio Township for its first acquisition under the County's Natural Areas Preservation Program. That preservation program is the one approved by voters in 2000 with a quarter mill tax levy, and is expected to generate as much as 30 million dollars for land acquisition over a ten year period. The Scio property comprises 137 acres of forest and wetlands located on the north side of Liberty just west of Zeeb. The property is home to a large selection of plant, animal and

bird life, and is also the home of a 350 year oak tree. Too big around even for four male tree huggers. A criterion for the County's purchases is that properties have unique natural features, so as a habitat for wildlife, and with a variety of plant life, wetlands and forest, this property has it all. The property was first settled in the 1830's, and about 80 acres (which are not being purchased) were actually farmed. Edmund Divine purchased the property in the 1970's, primarily for its aesthetics. Interested in preserving the property, Devine found a natural ally in the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee, which is the selection committee under the Natural Areas Preservation Program. The purchase was for 1.37 million dollars. Responsibility for the property acquired will fall to the offices of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, and is planned for passive (as opposed to active) recreation uses. An eventual boardwalk through the wetlands is planned, possibly with an observation platform and a small parking area along Liberty. Otherwise, the property will remain in its current pristine condition.

So what else is happening in Scio in the land preservation arena? In 2000, the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources closed on two properties in Scio Township, purchasing development rights on two local farms through the Michigan Farmland Protection program. Both of these purchases were supported by the Township Board, which also contributed financially in each case. Stan and Helen Parker signed an agreement



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in January of 2000 to restrict development on 188 acres of their farmland on Parker Road, restricting it to agricultural uses. In exchange for agreeing to restrict development, the Parkers received a cash payment from the state equivalent to the development value of the property, less its value as farmland. The Parker's property was ranked in the top ten of nearly 800 farms nominated for protection across the state that year. The Parker farm has been in the same family since the 1830's, and the road it fronts on is named after the family. Its prime agricultural soils, prominent visibility and family ownership made this an attractive property for development rights purchase. The Scio Township Board contributed \$5000 toward that purchase. The Parkers' neighbors to the south, Bruce and Jodi Manny, were also top finalists for the State's purchase of development rights program, and in 2000 they too closed an agreement with the State, protecting an additional 40 acres along scenic Parker Road. The Scio Township Board again contributed \$5000 toward the purchase. The commitment of these families toward land protection is to be commended, and has served as a catalyst to all interested in land preservation.

The Township also has supported a number of other applicants to the State's purchase of development rights program, as well as several local applications to the County's Natural Areas Preservation Program.

SCIO INFO

Scio Info is published quarterly by Scio Township, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48103, and is provided free of charge to all Scio Township residents, property owners, and businesses with local addresses.

E. Spaulding Clark, Editor

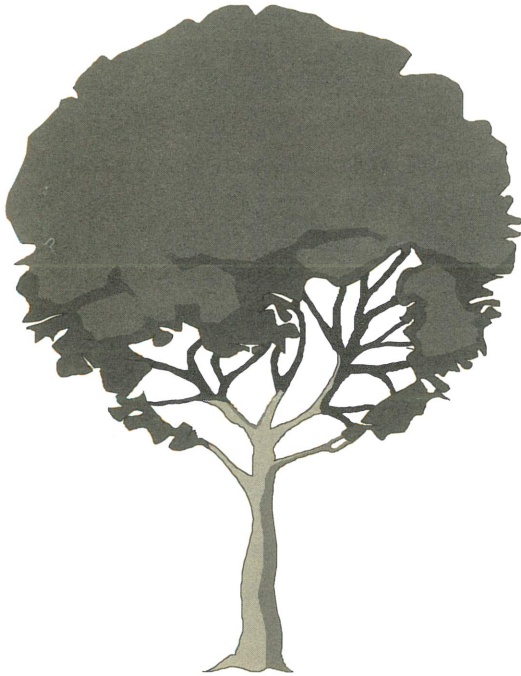
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Realizing that it's unrealistic to expect the County and/or State to carry the local load, the Township has looked to continue preservation efforts on a strictly local level. In all of the efforts noted in my preceding comments, the Township was aided by the efforts of Barry Lonik. Barry previously served as the Executive Director of the Washtenaw Land Trust, and has been a Project Coordinator with the Michigan Environmental Council. During his tenure with the land trust, the Township provided financial assistance to the land trust to carry out its efforts. Currently Barry serves as the Chair of the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee, and is also is a land protection consultant working in the public and private arenas. So when the Township was looking for assistance in pursuing land preservation goals, we looked no further than Barry. As his assistance and recommendations in the past have proven invaluable, the Township recently approved hiring Barry as a consultant to assist our land preservation efforts. Enter the Ann Arbor News, and sensing the usual non-story, made the proverbial mountain out of a molehill, thereby wasting more paper and ink than necessary. The News was concerned that Barry would be paid by the Township to find property for purchase by the County, and then would vote favorably on the property as a member of the County's selection committee. The assertion of a conflict of interest made by the News was ludicrous, as if Barry or the Township Board would compromise their integrity in such a fashion for a consulting contract of no more than \$5000. Oh well, I long since figured out that you can't sell papers if there is no controversy....

On other fronts, the Township is working directly with landowners for the purchase of the development rights to significant properties at the northwest corner of Wagner and Scio Church Roads. As part of a Planned Unit Development, the owners propose to construct six homes in the adjacent woods area, and with the combination of rezoning and a purchase of development rights, protect nearly seventy acres of farmland from future development. While details have yet to be worked out, the effort appears promising. The Township is also currently reviewing a proposed Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance, which is intended to be used in the future in conjunction with the State's new purchase of agricultural development rights pro-

gram, enabling the Township to obtain matching funds when using the State's program. Nothing of course prevents the Township from negotiating for and purchasing development rights directly, as noted above. Thus, initiatives to preserve land have been and are under way across a broad spectrum of Township activities. The Board takes seriously the desire to maintain the current and future quality of life in Scio, and within reasonable fiscal and legal constraints, we want to Preserve Scio as much as our residents do.



SCIO BRIEFS and more...

Recycling: Printed in this issue is a copy of a document prepared by the Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment, detailing information about the County's drop-off station on Ellsworth Road. This is the old City of Ann Arbor recycling facility that has been taken over and is being operated by Washtenaw County, and is open to all. Thus, for those hard to recycle goods, you can avail yourselves of the County's facility, with only modest charges in the case of some items. Additional information about recycling, composting and solid waste can be found on the Washtenaw County website at <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/>. Once there, find your way to the Department of Environment and Infrastructure page (in the process of changing its

name to the Department of Planning and Environment), and resource materials will be readily evident.



Pillar Award: On January 10th at its annual banquet, the Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County presented a Pillar Award to Scio Township as the County's Outstanding Governmental Agency. This award recognized Scio's efficiency in government, the courtesy of our staff, and our zoning and planning strategies. The award wasn't about building homes, but rather, reflects the qualities of our Township's administration that make Scio a great place to live. The HBA noted efforts such as the golf outing, which raised over \$10,000 for the Scio Township Fire Department. And on behalf of the Township Board, we appreciate the public recognition of the polite and courteous service provided by our staff.

Roads update: As you have observed, the work on Jackson Boulevard and the Zeeb/I-94 interchange is mostly complete. Landscaping work in the medians is incomplete and awaits the spring planting season. But other than this detail, generally unnoticeable in the winter, the projects were completed on time and as expected. Next spring, absent adverse action at the state level, work is expected to begin on the Baker/I-94 interchange, and will generally be a mirror image of what occurred this past summer at Zeeb Road. The bridge will be widened to 5 lanes, a new eastbound on-ramp will be added, and the existing entrances and exits improved. Also on the slate for work next spring are improvements to the Liberty and Wagner intersection, with the addition of turning lanes and signalization.

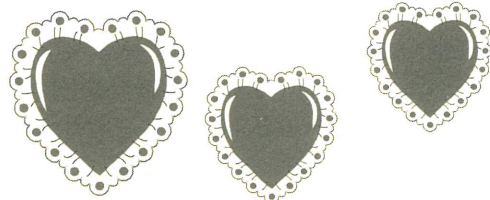


Police Services: As you may recall from prior articles, in abolishing the Sheriff's road patrol the Washtenaw County Commissioners determined that police services would only be provided to those local municipalities that pay for such services. The County agreed to provide contracting municipalities with a fixed financial subsidy, but no more. The net result to Scio is that it now costs Scio \$80,683 per deputy, with the County providing a \$40,000 "subsidy" for each deputy. This "subsidy" is only good up to a maximum of 6.5 deputies, and thereafter, the Township would be required to absorb the full cost of each deputy. As a consequence, Scio contracted to bring the number of contracted deputies to six total. Six is considered sufficient to provide a full time deputy in the Township 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now, to the surprise of no one, the County has discovered that it has exceeded its budget by \$1.5 million dollars, and that their costs are much higher than they expected. They have also apparently now discovered, again to no one's surprise, that the Northwestern study which they used to justify their actions, was flawed. The Commissioners have now handpicked another committee to delve into this problem, but without any significant Township representation, it doesn't take the proverbial rocket scientist to figure out whom they expect to pay for their cost over runs. I have wondered before as to whether Townships receive any significant benefit from the tax dollars paid to the County, and I guess we will get another opportunity to revisit this issue. More to follow.

Pollution: Like the Energizer bunny, the pollution from the Pall site keeps going and going. Last year, and fifteen years after the problem was recognised and the cleanup started, a new aquifer has been found to be contaminated. 1,4 dioxane has now been found to be moving east into

the City of Ann Arbor, forcing the City to close one of its wells which provided a small percentage of the City's drinking water needs. Under Michigan law, the responsibility for the cleanup is Pall's, with oversight by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The matter is also subject to the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court, which has the power to enforce the terms of a consent judgment between Gelman (Pall's predecessor) and the MDEQ. Local governments and citizens are not a part of this formal process, but we do meet to present a united front and express our concerns about the cleanup to the MDEQ. The fact that the recently discovered E aquifer contamination could go undiscovered for fifteen years is not encouraging, nor is the fact that the State has little interest in preventing contamination of currently pristine groundwater at levels which fall under 85 parts per billion (the state determined "contamination" level). The City of Ann Arbor has its hands full dealing with the encroachment of this as yet undelineated contamination from the Pall site. After all these years I wish I could say that the problem has been abated and the cleanup working, but I can't, and there seems no good news on the horizon.

Regional planning efforts: Scio is participating with other urban communities in looking at regional issues where cooperative efforts might succeed. This began as an effort initiated by Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, and was joined by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. As you might expect, a large number of issues were initially placed on the table, but a second meeting focused on regional transportation issues, including the possibility of commuter rail transport between Ann Arbor and Detroit, with possible service to Metro Airport. Again, we are only in the preliminary stages of discussion, but eventually, the stage should be set for meaningful cooperative efforts between local communities.



WASHTENAW COUNTY REGIONAL DROP-OFF STATION

One-Stop Location for Recycling, Refuse, and Compost

2950 East Ellsworth Rd.

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and Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

(Nov. 1 thru March 31 open 9-5 p.m.)

(734) 971-7400



The Drop-Off Station is open to the general public. The Station is operated as a regional facility for Washtenaw County by Recycle Ann Arbor. Prices are subject to change. For 24-hour information, contact www.recycleannarbor.org.



COMPOST & MULCH SALES

MUNICIPAL COMPOST.....	\$1.25/bushel, or \$14/cubic yard
MIXED or EVERGREEN MULCH.....	\$.75/bushel, \$7/cubic yard
WOOD MULCH (no bark).....	\$1/bushel, \$9/cubic yard

Loaded bulk compost and mulch are handled at the MRF Scalehouse at 4120 Platt Road. Call 971-8600 for hours, prices and availability.

RECYCLABLES (No Fee)

MIXED PAPER - Includes Newspaper, Magazines, Office Paper, "Junk" Mail, Phone Books, Paperbacks, Catalogs, Flattened Bagged Boxboard, CORRUGATED BOXES & PAPER BAGS (flattened)

MIXED CONTAINERS - Includes empty, rinsed: Milk Cartons, Juice Boxes, Glass (jars, bottles, dishes, pyrex), Ceramics, Plastic Bottles (marked #1 and #2) Metals (steel cans, lids, empty aerosols, aluminum cans, foil, pie tins)

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES, +HARDCOVER BOOKS, +STYROFOAM™ (with no food waste)

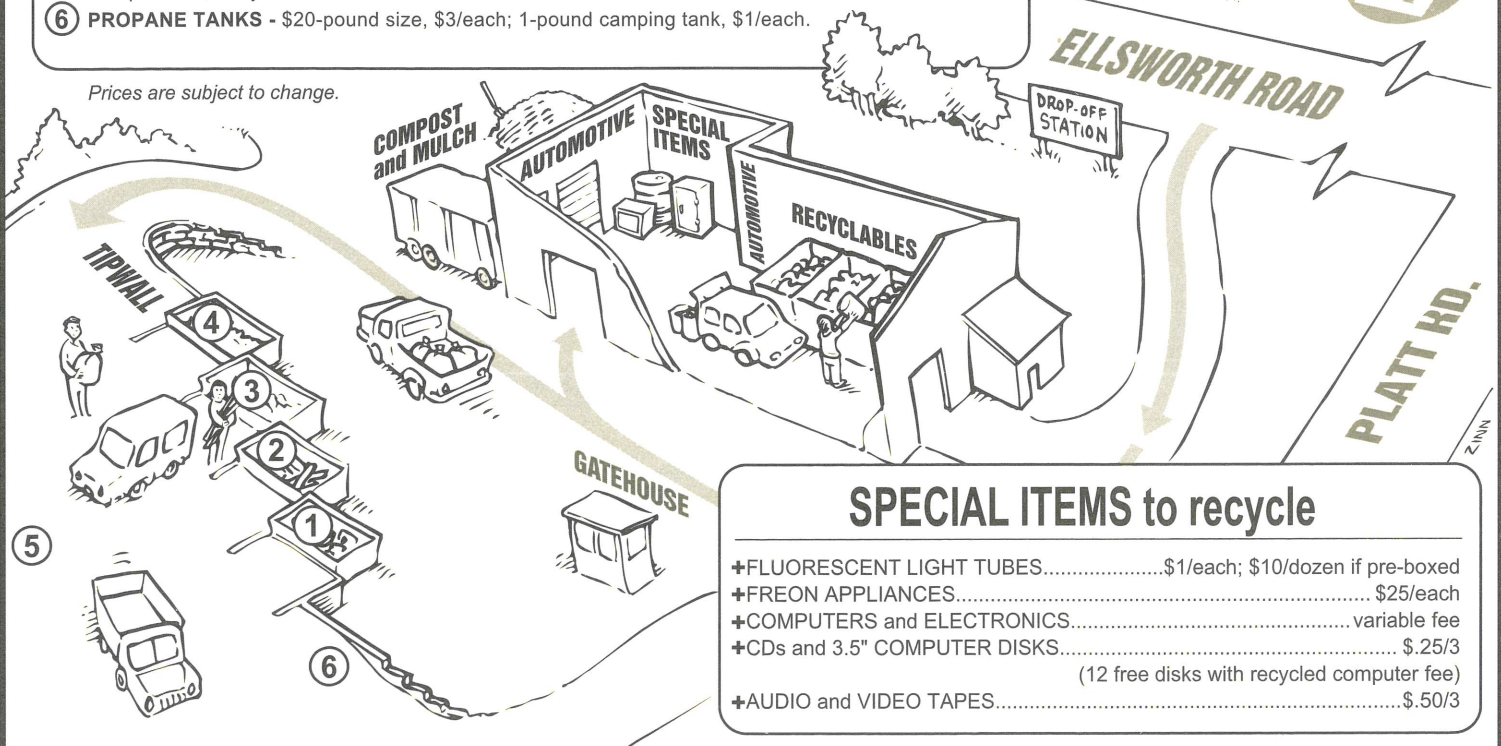
+PACKING PEANUTS (bagged), **EGG CARTONS** (paper and +foam), **SEPARATED WHITE** and **MIXED OFFICE PAPER**, **+TEXTILES** (clean, dry and bagged), **+SHOES** (paired), **PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

+ = materials recycled **only** at the Drop-Off Center; not accepted on collection routes.

TIPWALL Materials Fees and volumes (to nearest half cubic yard) are assessed at the Gatehouse. Unload into steel bins near tip wall after payment.

- LIGHT WASTE** - Includes all non-hazardous municipal solid waste, i.e., carpeting, mattresses, furniture, trash, etc. \$14/cy or \$2/bag.
- HEAVY WASTE** - includes building debris, drywall, shingles, plywood, painted or treated wood, concrete with steel or bricks. \$23/cy.
- YARD WASTE** - Includes soft yard debris and branches up to 6" in diameter. No stumps or logs. \$14/cy.
- FERROUS (STEEL) METALS** - Includes small appliances (e.g., microwaves, toaster ovens), gutters, bikes, auto parts (empty of oil and fuel). \$5/cy. Non-Freon appliances (e.g., stoves) \$5/each.
- CONCRETE** - No painted concrete or imbedded steel or brick. \$12/cy.
NON-FERROUS METALS - such as aluminum, copper, etc.
UNFINISHED WOOD - Includes clean lumber (no painted, treated, stained or glued wood/plywood) and pallets. \$12/cy.
- PROPANE TANKS** - \$20-pound size, \$3/each; 1-pound camping tank, \$1/each.

Prices are subject to change.



AUTOMOTIVE

- +CAR TIRES \$3/tire up to 16 inches
- +TRUCK TIRES \$8/tire up to 25 inches
- +CAR BATTERIES..... no fee
- +TRANSMISSION FLUID \$1/gallon
- +ANTIFREEZE \$1/gallon
- +BRAKE FLUID \$1/gallon
- MOTOR OIL..... no fee (limit 5 gallons)*
- OIL FILTERS..... no fee (limit 5 filters)*

*\$.25 each, over 5 gallons or filters per month

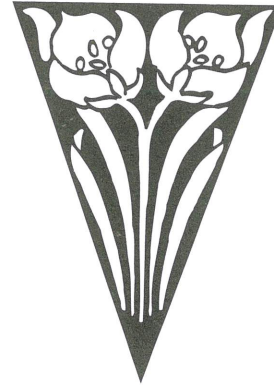
SPECIAL ITEMS to recycle

- +FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBES.....\$1/each; \$10/dozen if pre-boxed
- +FREON APPLIANCES..... \$25/each
- +COMPUTERS and ELECTRONICS..... variable fee
- +CDs and 3.5" COMPUTER DISKS..... \$.25/3
(12 free disks with recycled computer fee)
- +AUDIO and VIDEO TAPES.....\$.50/3

Mark your calendar!

February Meetings

10 - noon	DDA
10 - 7:30pm	Planning Commission
12 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
17 - office closed	Presidents Day
18 - 7:00pm	Board of Trustees
20 - 7:00pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
24 - 7:30pm	Planning Commission
27 - 9:00am	DDA Roads



In memoriam

November brought the Township sad news with the sudden loss of Loretta Hatley after a relatively short illness. Loretta began working for the Township in August of 1990, and served as a senior administrative clerk, utilities billing clerk, and Deputy Treasurer. Donna Palmer, the Township Treasurer, said it best when she described Loretta as a friend to Donna and to everyone else. Loretta was a loving wife, mother and grandmother; she was a staff member that was always a part of a team, doing her best and expecting no less from the rest of us; she was a person eager to learn something new and had fun doing it; she was a shoulder to lean on and a confidante; and her sense of humor was the best. Most of all, Loretta loved people and showed it everyday she worked in the Township. Loretta meant a lot to the Township and its staff members, and she will be missed by one and all.

March Meetings

10 - noon	DDA
10 - 7:30pm	Planning Commission
12 - 7:00pm	Board of Trustees
18 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
20 - 7:00pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
27 - 9:00am	DDA Roads

April Meetings

9 - 7:00pm	Board of Trustees
14 - noon	DDA
14 - 7:30pm	Planning Commission
15 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
17 - 7:00pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
24 - 9:00am	DDA Roads
28 - 7:00pm	Planning Commission



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I Know Scio!

As a thirty-year resident...

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Whether public or Real Estate Service...

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When Buying or Selling your home
Remember...

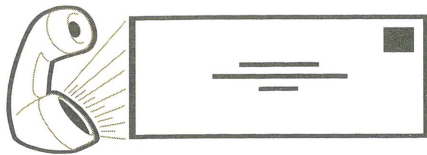
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Who's who... ...and where

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web site: www.twp.scio.mi.us

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Utilities: Ray Striz

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SEWER /WATER EMERGENCY: 651-4770

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 665-6001

SHERIFF'S Zeeb Substation: 994-8105

**WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
761-1500**

Correspondence for Township officials, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Commission and Downtown Development Authority should be sent to the individual commission at 827 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

**SCIO INFO NEWSLETTER
SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL
827 North Zeeb Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

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734-483-3621; kernm@ewashtenaw.org

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3:

Stephen Solowczuk
734-429-0849; solowczs@ewashtenaw.org

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 9:

Leah Gunn
734-663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 10:

Vivienne N. Armentrout
734-668-8579; armentrv@ewashtenaw.org

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 52:

Gene DeRossett
800-645-1581; gderossett@house.state.mi.us

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 18:

Liz Brater
517-373-2406; SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7:

Nick Smith
202-225-6276; www.house.gov/nicksmith

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15:

John Dingell
202-225-4071; www.house.gov/dingell

U.S. SENATOR:

Debbie Stabenow
202-224-4822; www.stabenow.senate.gov

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Carl Levin
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