

Scio Info

Township of Scio • Established 1833 • Fall 2003 Edition

Scio Community Update

Once again it's time for a brief community update. While Scio is still growing, the residential component has slowed down based upon the lack of residentially zoned property, and more particularly, property within the water and sewer districts. Limiting the extension of water and sewer utilities to only those areas planned for and needing such utilities, has put the brakes on undesired and dense development. The Township continues to press for slower growth and low density, while attempting to meet the desires and objectives of land and green space preservation. The Township is currently exploring options with several land-

owners in an effort to limit the development of their properties, and this effort includes the recent zoning approval for property on the northwest corner of Wagner and Scio Church, which will allow six additional residential lots in return for the potential to preserve some 68 acres of farmland and open space. The Township has now engaged the services of Barry Lonik to serve as a consultant on a wide range of land preservation issues. Barry has in the past served on what is now the Washtenaw Land Conservancy, and more recently served on the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee. His experience with land preservation issues will prove beneficial to the Township. On another front, the Township Board recently added its support to a proposal put forth by Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, who proposed a city millage that will be used to purchase parks and greenbelt open space, as well as to provide a program to protect source-water areas. Purchases that may occur if the proposal passes will include properties in the townships surrounding Ann Arbor, including Scio. The proposal contemplates the assistance, cooperation and financial support of the surrounding townships, and is seen as a step forward in combating urban sprawl. Believing that such a proposal serves a wide community of interest, and will add to the quality of life in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities, the Township Board added its support to the proposal.



Scio Info

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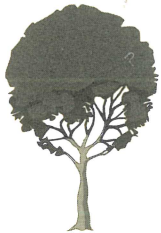
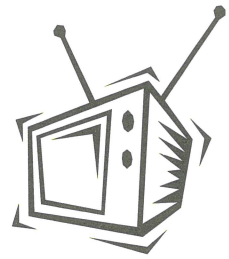
In the development vein, the Jackson Road boulevard project in the area of the new Lowes' store is winding to an end. This portion of the road improvement should be completed by early November, when Lowes looks to open their new store. On the Meijer site, the addition of a new gas station and convenience store has been approved, to be located in the northwest corner of their site. The Acura dealership has moved into a new location on a site within the Ann Arbor Auto Mall, just across the street from their current location. The relocation of the Subaru dealership onto the Dunning Toyota site is now under-

derway, and Belle Tire is opening just down the street on Jackson. A large phase of Scio Town Center at Zeeb and Park is nearing completion, and will combine retail space with residential space above. This is one of the few examples of a mixed-use development in the entire county, and will

complement the condominiums that have already been built on the site. And yes, we have heard expressions of interest coming from Home Depot and Cracker Barrel, both of whom think Scio would be a great place to be. A small residential development has been approved on Staebler Road adjacent to the Scio Farms mo-

bile home community. Known as Kirkway of Scio, where 44 single family homes will locate on 18 plus acres.

On the cable television front, the Township has joined with other communities to begin the process of reviewing and negotiating the extension of the current cable franchise with Comcast. The current franchise expires in 2005, but the process is somewhat long and laborious. As an initial step, the Township is soliciting comments with regard to (1) identifying future cable-related community needs and interests and (2) reviewing the cable operator's past performance. Thus, if you have comments to offer in these regards, you are asked to put those comments in writing, if possible, and send them to the Township Board. Please note, this is not about Comcast's rate structure, which unfortunately does not fall under the Township's ability to regulate.



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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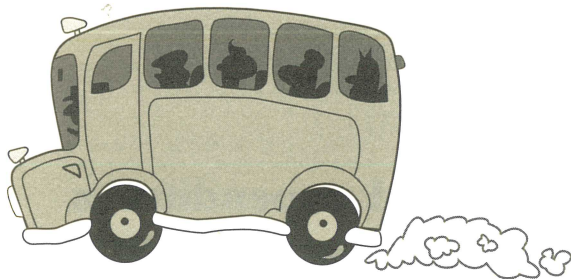


With the completion of Phase II of Jackson Road this spring, sidewalks were constructed along the phases of Jackson Road that have received boulevard treatment, as well as

along areas of Zeeb north and south of Jackson Road. The Township is in the process of adopting regulations with regard to those sidewalks, which will include requirements affecting the property owners over whose property the sidewalks extend. Those regulations will require the landowner to maintain (such as snow removal), repair and keep the sidewalks safe. A more formal notice will appear in the newspapers once this ordinance is adopted.

Another topic of interest deals with bus service along Jackson Road. My comments last month contained an error, when I indicated that the Village of Dexter had terminated its arrangement with AATA. Village Council member Jim

Carson politely reminded me that the Village had not terminated the arrangement, but desired to continue it. It was AATA that terminated the arrangement because of the lack of sufficient overall funding. As a consequence, the Village entered into an arrangement with the Chelsea Area Transportation System (CATS) to provide service along Jackson Road between the Village and the Ann Arbor city limits, where connection can be made with an AATA bus. The CATS route is currently operational, and the Township has been discussing with Village officials ways in which the Township might be of assistance in order to provide and implement needed services in the most effective manner.



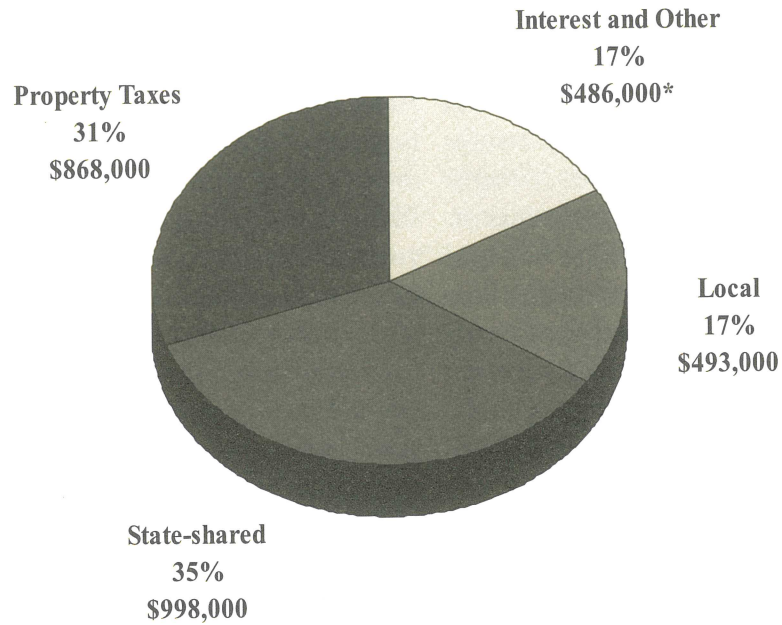
As property tax bills will be arriving in the mail soon, a brief and timely financial update might be in order to add to these comments. Recently the Township's auditors, Plante & Moran, completed their audit of our financial statements as of the end of our last fiscal year, March 31st, 2003. As in past years, the audit was successful in that we received an unqualified audit without any adjusting entries. Following this article are a number of pie charts courtesy of Plante & Moran that show the Township's general fund revenues and expenses by major category, as well as pie charts showing the breakdown of total taxes collected in each of the two school districts. Since municipal accounting and finance is difficult and complex at best, these charts do help in simplifying the basic data. While a good report card on Township finances is always welcome, in the current economic and political climate, the Township continues to keep an eye on its fi-

nances. As you may note in the revenue chart, Scio receives state revenue sharing as do all other municipal entities across Michigan. State shared revenues represent about 35% of the Township's budget, and are mandated under the State constitution and state law. As you may have read however, whenever the State legislature needs money, they raid revenue sharing. This makes it difficult to budget from year to year, knowing your revenue stream may be held hostage at any given point to the political whims of the legislature. This year revenues are down from last fiscal year, when they represented about 40% of overall revenues. Unfortunately, these cuts at the state level, come at a time when other governmental entities want townships to pay more, such as the decision of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has forced all townships to pay for police services. More on that another day, but when you look at the graphs on the next page prepared by our auditors, Plante Moran, check out how much of your tax dollar the County gets. Or better yet, check out how little of your tax dollars go to Township government.

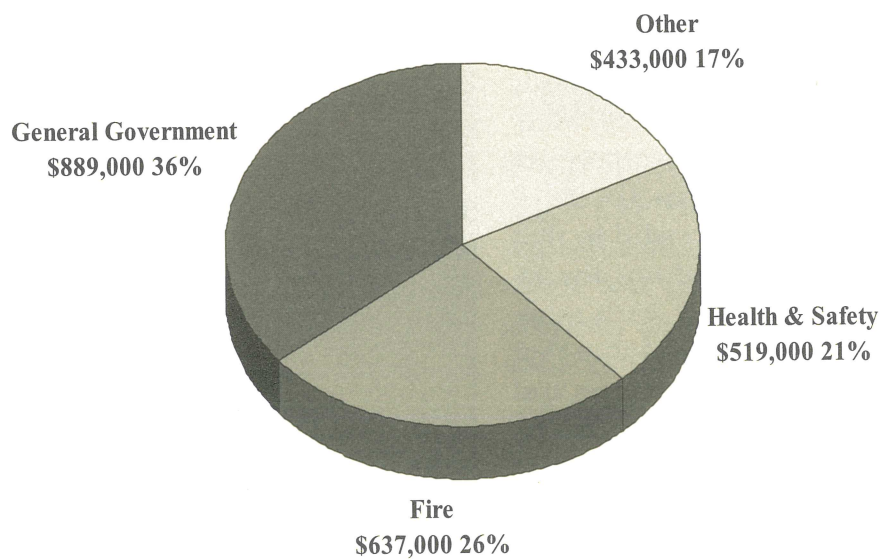
Finally, some welcome news. Foster Bridge is scheduled to reopen temporarily at a lowered weight limit, until such a time as the remaining structural components have been received. The Road Commission wanted to temporarily alleviate the inconvenience caused by the bridge closing. The bridge will again be closed for approximately one week when the remaining materials are installed, and thereafter reopened at the higher weight limits originally contemplated.



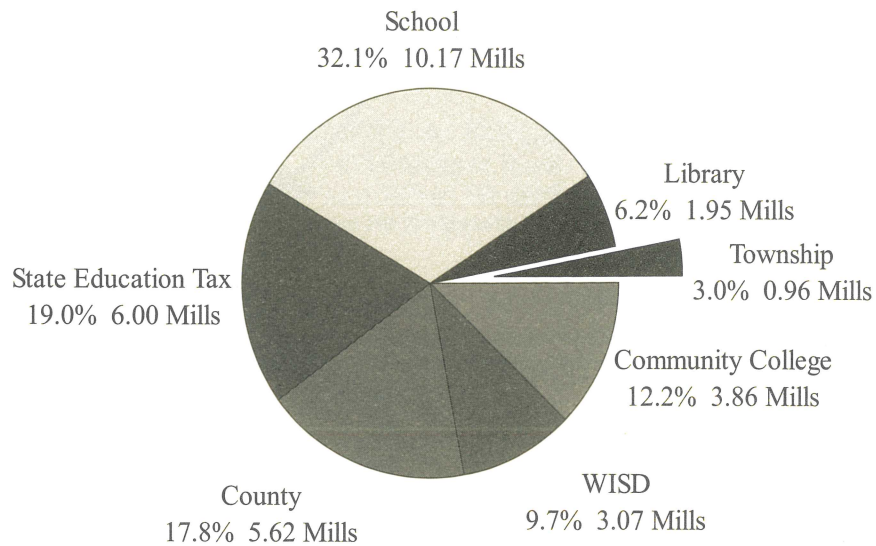
Scio Township 2002-2003 general fund revenues



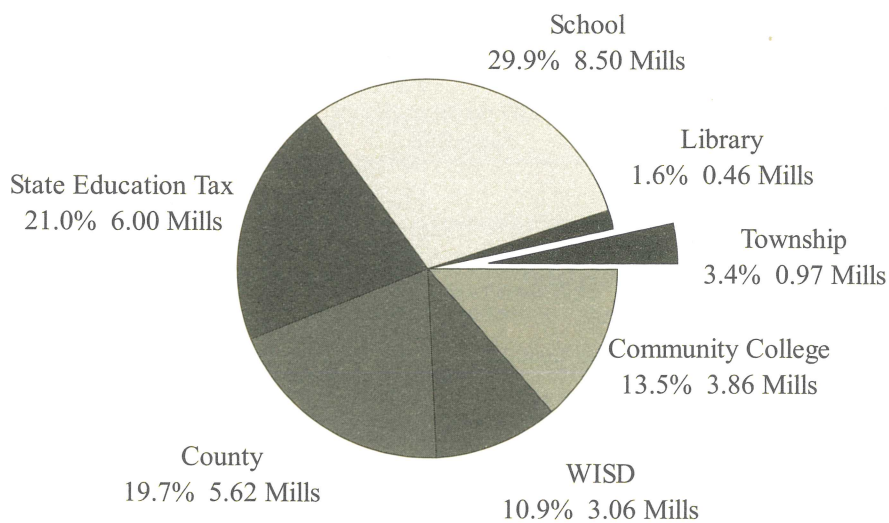
Scio Township 2002-2003 general fund expenditures



Scio Township 2002-2003 Ann Arbor School District homestead property tax allocation



Scio Township 2002-2003 Dexter School District homestead property tax allocation



Mark your calendar!

November Meetings

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10 - noon | DDA |
| 10 - 7:30pm | Planning Commission |
| 12 - 7:00 pm | Board of Trustees |
| 18 - 7:00pm | Board of Trustees |
| 20 - 7:00pm | Zoning Board of Appeals |
| 24 - 7:00pm | Planning Commission |
| 27 - Thanksgiving holiday | - office closed |
| 28 - Thanksgiving holiday | - office closed |

December Meetings

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 8 - noon | DDA |
| 8 - 7:30pm | Planning Commission |
| 10 - 7:00pm | Board of Trustees |
| 16 - 7:00 pm | Board of Trustees |
| 18 - 7:00pm | Zoning Board of Appeals |
| 24 - Christmas Eve | - office closed |
| 25 - Christmas Day | - office closed |
| 31 - 3:00 pm | New years Eve- office closed |

January Meetings

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - New Years Day | - office closed |
| 12 - 12:00 pm | DDA |
| 12 - 7:30pm | Planning Commission |
| 14 - 7:00 pm | Board of Trustees |
| 15 - 7:00pm | Zoning Board of Appeals |
| 20 - 7:00pm | Board of Trustees |
| 26 - 7:00pm | Planning Commission |
| 29 - 9:00am | DDA Roads |



Scio Firefighters Annual Halloween Party Sunday, October 26th 2pm-4pm

Parents, if you want your children to enjoy a safe, exciting, warm and dry Halloween, then bring the kids, costume and all, to the annual Halloween Party sponsored by the Scio Township Firefighters at the fire station located at 1055 North Zeeb Road. This year's party will be one of the best ever. There will be games, prizes, clowns, and refreshments for all. Don't forget: Sunday, October 26th, from 2 pm until 4 pm.



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As a thirty-year resident...

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When Buying or Selling your home
Remember...

I Know Scio!



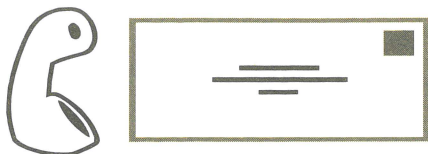
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web site: www.twp.scio.mi.us

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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
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Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

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

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