



SPECIAL GELMAN UPDATE

Scio Township has been coping with the pollution caused by Gelman Sciences since it was first discovered in the 1980s. Advocates for cleaning up the 1,4 dioxane plume have long sought direct involvement by the federal government. The recent announcement by the EPA that it is listing the Gelman site on the Federal Register is the first step toward its eventual inclusion on the National Priorities List. I offered Trustee Kathleen Knol the front page of the newsletter to put a spotlight on this important update.
— Will Hathaway, Supervisor.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed adding the Gelman 1,4 dioxane contamination site to the National Priorities List (NPL). The Gelman dioxane plume spans parts of Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township, and the City of Ann Arbor. Dioxane is classified as a likely carcinogen by all routes of contact. The first step in the process of being added to the NPL is to publish the proposal to add the site to the NPL in the Federal Register, which triggers a 60-day public comment period. This comment period began on March 7. The EPA may add the site to the NPL if the site continues to meet the listing requirements after the public comment period closes and the agency has responded to any substantive comments. The process of finalization for placement on the NPL can

take up to one year. If there is potential future litigation, this would take place once the site is listed on the NPL.

The EPA National Priorities List includes sites of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned releases of contamination. The NPL serves as a basis for prioritizing EPA Superfund cleanup funding and enforcement actions. The Gelman site was one of three sites that were recently listed in the Federal Register. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has accelerated the EPA's work to clean up NPL sites with a \$3.5 billion investment in the Superfund remedial program, according to an EPA press release. This law reinstated the "polluter pays" chemical excise tax to help clean up these sites. With this funding, the EPA has been able to clear a backlog of unfunded Superfund sites and has provided as much cleanup funding in the past two years as it did in the previous five years.

The current remedial activities at the Gelman site are governed by the provisions of the 4th Amended Consent Judgment. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) provides enforcement and oversight to these remedial activities and well testing. Scio Township and Ann Arbor Township have previously conducted additional residential well testing. This testing documented that the dioxane contamination was more than one mile north of what was thought to be the

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE

northern boundary of the plume, thus creating questions of expansion of the pollution. **Once the EPA's jurisdiction of the Gelman site is established by its addition to the NPL, the EPA will take over administration of ongoing cleanup and testing.** It is important to note that taxpayers have paid for a significant amount of the ongoing drinking water well testing in Scio Township. Once jurisdiction is established by the EPA, the polluter will be

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responsible for these costs.

Groups such as the Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD), Scio Residents for Safe Water (SRSW), and governmental units have been advocating for a more effective cleanup of the dioxane plume for many years. In 2021, Scio Township partnered with Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor, and Ann Arbor Township to request the EPA investigate the site as a possible Superfund site. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell has been an advocate for federal oversight during this time period.

The EPA will respond to all substantive public comments during the 60-day comment period. Residents will be able to view all comments and EPA responses. The link to submit a public comment is [regulations.gov/docket/EPA-](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-)

[HQ-OLEM-2024-0067/document](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0067/document). Questions regarding the public comment process can be directed to Erica Aultz (aultz.eric@epa.gov).

Once the site is placed on the NPL, a remedial investigation and feasibility study will be conducted. The goal of the remedial investigation is to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination. When the site is finalized for placement on the NPL, the EPA has a robust public involvement process and a site-specific community involvement plan will be created. There is no national drinking water standard for allowable levels of dioxane and state regulations vary widely. The current Michigan dioxane standard is 7.2 ppb, which is the second weakest in the nation. The feasibility study will decide the standard to be applied to the Gelman site.

According to the EPA, Superfund cleanups provide economic benefits to communities. Research has documented that residential property values increase after a Superfund cleanup. Find out more at [epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/redevelopment-economics-superfund-sites](https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/redevelopment-economics-superfund-sites).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scio Residents for Safe Water webpage [SRSW.org](https://www.SRSW.org).

Coalition for the Remediation of Dioxane website:

[Washtenaw.org/1774](https://www.Washtenaw.org/1774).

Use this QR code to get to the EPA Gelman webpage.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Reporting Requirements Not Met for Scio Township

We are required to report the results of your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. While we collected our monthly total coliform sample on time, we did not report the results to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) by the November 10, 2023, deadline for the October 1 to October 31, 2023, compliance period.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. The results of the sample were negative for bacteria. Even though public health was not impacted, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

What happened? What is being done?

While we collected the sample on time, we inadvertently missed reporting the sample results to EGLE by the required deadline. We are required to monitor total coliform by collecting nine samples per month. We collected five samples on October 11, 2023 and five samples on October 23, 2023, but failed to report all the results until November 27, 2023. We are making efforts to ensure this does not happen again. We have already returned to compliance.

For more information, please contact [Brandon McNiel, 734-369-9355, Bmcniel@sciotownship.org](mailto:Brandon.McNiel@sciotownship.org).

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Scio Township.



LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As I write this, it appears that spring is going to start early this year. Many of us will be getting outside already to do some spring cleanup in our yards. This is a good time to remember the risks that go along with burning brush and other yard debris that we collect throughout the winter. This article offers a brief overview of the laws (both in ordinance and state law) that surround outside fires. Note: There have been a few recent changes to our permitting process and updates to our website.

There are 3 types of fires authorized in Scio Township: Open Burning, Bonfires, and Recreational Fires. Each is a little different and has different rules.

- OPEN BURNING is setting fire to debris collected from the trees and bushes in your yard. To set a fire considered to be Opening Burning, your lot size must be 1 acre or larger, and the fire must be conducted at least 50' from a structure. Open Burning requires a permit.

Repaving Jackson Road. WCRC will close one westbound lane of Jackson Rd at a time for resurfacing this summer. Westbound traffic will be maintained in a single lane, adjacent to the lane under construction. Due to significant traffic volumes, motorists can expect delays.



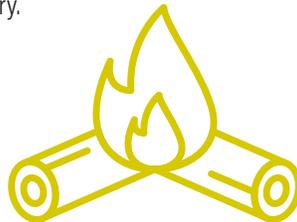
- A BONFIRE is a fire that is larger than 3' wide and 2' tall. A Bonfire is allowed anywhere in Scio but must be at least 50' away from a structure. A Bonfire requires a permit.

- A RECREATIONAL FIRE is a fire smaller than 3' wide and 2' tall for pleasure, warmth, cooking, or other similar purposes. A recreational fire DOES NOT require a permit.

In all cases, a fire must be constantly attended and have a means of extinguishment available. That could be a fire extinguisher, a garden hose, a bucket of sand, or pile of dirt that can be used to extinguish the fire.

IN ADDITION TO LOCAL ORDINANCES, THERE ARE STATE LAWS THAT GOVERN THIS ISSUE:

1. State laws prohibits Open Burning within 1,400 feet of a city. That means that burning debris collected on your property is against the law if you are closer than 1,400 feet to Dexter or Ann Arbor. In other words, the Fire Department will not issue a permit for Open Burning on your property if it is within 1,400 feet of a city boundary.



BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF,
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2. In communities with over 7,500 residents (Scio has close to 18,000) the burning of leaves and grass clippings is unlawful unless the community specifically authorizes it. Scio has not.

BURN PERMITS CAN BE OBTAINED TWO WAYS

The easiest way to obtain a burn permit is to complete the permit application at sciotownship.org/burnpermit and email it to the Fire Department. Permits are valid for up to 7 days and must be produced if the Fire Department gets called out to your home while you are burning. If you prefer, you can call the Fire Department at 734-665-6001 and a member of the staff can issue you a permit and email it to you.

Keep in mind that this spring is particularly dry, and the risk of a fire spreading is highest before the grasses green up. You should avoid burning on windy days, which can make controlling outdoor fires difficult. If you ever have questions, you can always call the Fire Department for advice, 734-665-6001.

More details about the laws and ordinances governing purpose-built fires is available on the Township website, just search for "Open Burning."

NATIVE PLANTING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 10 AM-12 PM

AT THE SCIO FIRE STATION, 1055 N ZEEB RD

Come learn about native plants, how to plant plugs, and then help plant the Solar Garden at the Scio Fire Station. Join Mike Appel of Mie Appel Environmental Landscape Design and other Scio volunteers to transform turf grass into a beautiful, sustainable, pollinator garden. Bring gloves and a trowel. Families are welcome!

ROADS UPDATE

There's plenty of good news to share from the Roads Advisory Committee. First, Scio Township was awarded an American Rescue Plan grant for culverts through the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office. After reimbursement, Scio Township will be responsible for only 25 percent of the cost! Culvert replacement is slated for Knight Rd., Park Rd. (west of Parkland Plaza), and West Delhi (north of Miller). If you live or commute in those areas, sign up for WCRC updates at wcroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates so you can plan accordingly.

In other good news, the Board of Trustees recently allocated American Rescue Plan funds specifically for local roads improvement. Here is a tentative list of roads scheduled for improvements this year: Gravel uplifts for Delhi Court, Railroad Street, Tubbs Road, Myrtle Avenue, Burton Avenue, Luella Avenue, Lamplighter Drive, Deerfield Drive, and Pheasant Drive; pavement improvements for Laurentide

Drive from N Maple Road to Parkridge Drive. There's a possibility of adding more roads to this list given fund availability. Expect to see WCRC preparing trees and ditches along these roads.

It seems we've had more days of spring weather than winter this year, and that has caused earlier-than-normal poor conditions for gravel roads. **Please be patient during "mud season" while WCRC makes their rounds for maintenance.** However, if your road has extreme issues above and beyond normal, let us know by emailing RAC@sciotownship.org.

The Roads Advisory Committee has been working on a policy for special assessment districts, a step-by-step guide for those interested in funding road improvements via special assessment, and a plan for funding future road improvements throughout the Township. In the fall 2023 issue of this newsletter, we announced an intention to put road funding on the ballot in 2024 but the Board of Trustees is considering renewal of

BY JILLIAN KERRY, TRUSTEE AND
ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

the expiring Bus Millage for the August ballot and increased funding for Fire Services for the November ballot, so RAC is considering recommending a road funding ballot initiative in 2025.

If you are interested in local roads and transportation issues, or if you are aware of a problem in your area, here are some ways to get in touch and stay informed:

Attend monthly meetings of the Roads Advisory Committee held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Township Hall. Remote participation via zoom. Visit sciotownship.org/roadsadvisorycommittee for links to upcoming meetings and records of past meetings. Email the committee at RAC@Sciotownship.org.

Stay on top of county road works by visiting wcroads.org/weekly-road-work-schedule or subscribe at wcroads.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates.

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION SPRING UPDATE

The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) is kicking off the 2024 construction season with seven projects in Scio Township. These projects range from the construction of a roundabout to pavement improvements. When orange barrels go up, this is a sign of progress in Washtenaw County.

In Spring 2024, a contractor is scheduled to build a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Miller and Zeeb Roads. The intersection will be closed for approximately 10 to 12 weeks, weather dependent.

WCRC is finalizing construction plans on the Jackson Road Corridor in Scio Township. Construction crews will perform concrete

pavement rehabilitation in the westbound lanes of Jackson Road between Jackson Industrial Drive and Myrtle Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime after the Jackson Road Cruise event in June. A virtual public information meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, at noon. For more information visit the project page: wcroads.org/wcrc-project/jackson-rd.

THIS SUMMER SCIO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS WILL NOTICE CREWS RESURFACING THESE ROADS:

- Scio Church Road between Zeeb and Wagner
- Parker Road between Scio Church and Liberty
- Miller Road between Wagner and M-14.

BY TIFFANY OLLIPHANT, WCRC

Many of these pavement projects are partially funded by the county-wide Roads and Non-Motorized Millage renewed by voters in 2020.

As construction ramps up, we urge drivers to put down the distractions, pay attention, move over, and slow down in work zones.

Learn more about road projects in Scio and subscribe to receive project updates via email at wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects.

CLERK'S COLUMN

OPEN RECRUITMENT FOR DEPUTY CLERK

Mary Gillis has worked side by side with me here at Township Hall, serving as my Deputy Clerk since I first took office in June 2019.

Together we have accomplished much—serving as essential workers through the pandemic, launching a new Township website and a host of other measures to expand access to public records, and implementing major voting reforms. Mary has announced her intention to soon vacate the Deputy Clerk position, though she plans to continue serving as the Township's Newsletter Editor.

Are you or is someone you know interested in serving the Township as Deputy Clerk?

This full-time benefited position is essential, required by law, and serves at the pleasure

of the Clerk. The Deputy Clerk may carry out any of the duties of the Clerk, except voting on matters before the Board of Trustees. The Clerk's statutory duties are broadly defined as:

1. to prepare and maintain the financial accounting of all of the Township's funds;
2. to protect and keep almost all Township records, books, and papers;
3. to maintain the voter rolls and administer elections.

Because my duties are so varied, I am seeking applicants from a few different fields in hopes of finding someone who complements the skill sets we already have within the Township team. Applicants should have at least a bachelor's, and preferably a Master's, degree in accounting, library/information science, public policy/administration, or related field. I hope to find someone with prior experience working in the

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

public sector, or an otherwise demonstrated commitment to public service. Township residency preferred. The Board of Trustees has set the salary range for this FLSA-exempt position at \$70,000 to \$76,000.

Public service is public trust, and the ideal candidate must have excellent judgment, strong ethics, and be passionate about improving Scio Township's governance:

strengthening internal controls over the management of public funds, implementing good governance reforms such as better transparency, practicing democratic norms, and abiding by the rule of law.

To apply, please see the job description and application at sciotownship.org/employment. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. For questions about the position, please contact me at clerk@sciotownship.org or (734) 369-9400.

WHAT IS THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY?

What is the Downtown Development Authority? The Scio Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

has been in existence since April 1988. The DDA is a group of 8-12 volunteers who execute attainable strategies to help enhance Scio Township and create a benefit to both residents and businesses. It's efforts are funded by Tax Increment Financing (TIF) whose funds can be used to make improvements to downtown districts in order to enhance economic viability, stimulate private investment, and increase property values. The first significant DDA project was the overhaul of Jackson Avenue, turning it into the boulevard we see today.

WHAT VALUE IS THE DDA TO SCIO TOWNSHIP?

A DDA can provide grants and support for businesses to grow within the township. Recent accomplishments in this area include

installing 5 bus shelters along the DDA corridor and facilitating a brownfield clean-up grant from EGLE for HOMES Brewery. The Scio DDA is working in an ongoing manner to enhance Scio's appearance and safety by:

- Updating the boulevard landscaping and signage
- Funding the re-pavement of prioritized Jackson Road secondary feeder roads
- Partnering with the Scio Township code enforcement officer to help ensure property owners and companies maintain property aesthetics
- Coordinating with the Planning Commission to evaluate methods to attract small businesses to the DDA.

IN SUMMARY, THE 2024 DDA PLAN HAS SET THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

To improve the safety, attractiveness, and utility

BY JENNIFER TANKANOW AND RYAN YAPLE, DDA MEMBERS

of Jackson Blvd and other roads within the DDA.

To attract and encourage the expansion of businesses while continuing to support existing businesses in the DDA district.

To promote strong relationships between the DDA and the business and public sectors.

We welcome feedback and invite the public to join our bi-monthly meetings. **A special meeting has been called for April 8; the next regular meeting will be held on May 13. All DDA meetings are held at noon in the Township Hall.** Participation via zoom is available. We truly value partnerships with the Scio Board, DDA businesses, and residents to create attainable goals that our small team can execute.

NEWS FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

BY SEAN MCCORMICK

Did you know there are multiple ways to report a code or zoning violation or concern?

- Online at sciotownship.org/code
- In person at Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd.
- By calling Code Enforcement directly at 734-369-9359

The code enforcement officer is available weekly, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm.

WHEN TO REPORT A VIOLATION TO CODE ENFORCEMENT VERSUS WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (WCSO).

- If it is a health-and-safety, life-threatening, or quality-of-life concern that **requires immediate response**, please contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office 734-994-2911.

- Noise complaints, traffic concerns, and stray dogs are the type of concerns that should be reported to WCSO because of their immediacy.
- If it is a health-and-safety or quality-of-life concern **not requiring immediate response**, please contact Scio Code Enforcement.
 - Blight, off-street parking, storage of recreational vehicles, signage in rights-of-way, and nuisance complaints are the type of concern that should be reported to Code Enforcement.

GFL YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS APRIL 1

- Acceptable Yard Waste includes lawn debris, grass or shrub clippings; branches, tree trimmings, shrub clippings (tied and bundled); and small shrubs and bushes with dirt removed from root systems.
- The yard waste may be bundled, placed in

large capacity craft/paper bags, or placed loose in a can with a COMPOST sticker label (available at the front desk in Township Hall).

- GFL observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Please remember that if an observed holiday falls on a weekday, your scheduled service will be delayed by one day. Regular collection will resume the following week.

Scio Township residents have a dedicated telephone number to contact GFL customer service: 734-224-5585. An online complaint form can be found at sciotownship.org/gflfeedback.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) have selected an abandoned cemetery on Pratt Road at Honey Creek Drive for restoration. Popkins Cemetery holds historical significance as the final resting place of American Revolutionary War patriot Sylvester Richmond, who passed in 1832. Richmond worked for James and Mary Popkins, who allotted some of their land as a cemetery. The cemetery has 13 graves and sadly has endured significant damage and neglect over the years. This initiative comes in anticipation of celebrations commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. There are several American Revolutionary War Veterans buried throughout Washtenaw County and the local DAR and SAR chapters have been working together to mark their graves.

To kickstart restoration efforts at Popkins Cemetery, the DAR and SAR are inviting folks who are passionate about preserving history to attend the first clean-up event, now scheduled for **May 4 (with a rain date of May 11), 10 am to 2 pm**. If you would like to contribute your time and effort to this cause, please reach out to Denise Frost at dmfrost@comcast.net for further details and to register your interest.



AFRAID OF GETTING SCAMMED, PHISHED, OR WORST OF ALL PHREAKED?

Take the quizzes at banksneveraskthat.com. You'll learn how to detect common scams and tips to avoid losing your money, access to your computer, or even your identity.



COMMITTEE STUDIES BUS SERVICE IN SCIO

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

Scio's Transit Advisory Committee is a time-limited committee created to study public transportation in Scio and make a recommendation for potential renewal of the Transportation Millage to the Board of Trustees. The current millage was approved by voters in 2015 and expires at the end of 2024. The revenue from this millage funds public transportation service from the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) and Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE). There are three AAATA routes in Scio Township: Route 26/29 serves the Scio Ridge area, Route 30 serves the Jackson Road corridor from the Meijer store east, and Route 31 loops through the Dexter Road/Wagner Road area. There is also the A-Ride service for persons with disabilities. WAVE provides two "community connector" routes that include the western end of Jackson Road.

The Transit Advisory committee is chaired by Township Manager Joyce Parker. Members include Planning Commission Chair Jan Culbertson, Scio's WAVE Board Representative Kim Moore, and myself. The group began meeting in January with a deadline of March 31, 2024, to make its recommendation to the Board in time to place a millage proposal on the August 6 ballot, if necessary. The discussion was informed by input from AAATA, WAVE, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS).

Through these discussions, the committee learned that bus ridership in Scio Township was highest in 2019 but dropped significantly because of Covid in 2020. The numbers have been increasing each year since then but are still well below the pre-pandemic peak. Future development along the Jackson Road corridor is

expected to result in more ridership.

Initially the committee considered extending AAATA's Route 30 service to Baker Road. Through discussion it became evident that the WAVE community connector routes already extend public transportation out to the Baker Road intersection. The key is to make the transfer from WAVE to AAATA (and vice versa) as seamless as possible for riders.

The committee has prepared a brief survey to gauge current bus use among Scio residents, and to solicit suggestions for improvements. The survey is available at sciotownship.org/bus or use the QR code below. At the time of publication, the committee will have made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, but the questionnaire will remain open to continue to gather ridership information and suggestions.

AAATA Ridership in Scio Township (Oct 2019 – Sept 2023)

The ridership data below are estimates based on passenger boardings at bus stops located in Scio Township along three AATA Routes. A-Ride ridership includes trips that either began or ended in Scio Township. A-Ride is a shared reservation based accessibility service for persons with disabilities.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023*
Rt 26&29 - Scio Ridge Area	7,267	3,431	853	2,510	2,951
Rt 30 - Jackson Rd Corridor	26,587	14,982	11,919	12,861	15,649
Rt 31 - Dexter/Wagner Area	4,820	2,481	242	2,902	2,868
A-Ride	2,509	1,937	1,300	1,254	1,360

Point your camera phone at this image and click on the link that pops up to access the Bus Rider Survey. Thank you!



OAK WILT WARNING

Oak trees should not be pruned between April 15 and July 15 when they are at high risk for infection with oak wilt. If you have an oak tree that gets damaged during this high-risk period, immediately cover all wounds with tree-wound paint or latex-based paint. Oak wilt also can spread from tree to tree through roots that have grown together underground. And spores can be carried long distances to living trees when you move firewood cut from an infected tree. If you suspect your firewood is infected by oak wilt, you can help slow the spread by burning it, chipping it, or debarking it before April. Once the firewood has been dried for longer than a year and/or all the bark loosens, the firewood can no longer spread oak wilt. If you suspect your tree may have oak wilt, find a qualified specialist and more information at michiganoakwilt.org.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND YOUR SAFETY

Considering buying an electric vehicle (EV) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) to reduce your carbon footprint, reduce air pollution, and generally clean up your daily commute while saving yourself money over the long run? Great idea! Just remember that your new ride will require attention to some details to protect against the risks of electric shock and fire.

If you plan to charge your EV or PHEV at home, have a qualified electrician install a new dedicated circuit for your charging device. Older home wiring may not be suitable for use with EV supply equipment.

CHARGING YOUR EV OR PHEV:

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines when charging your vehicle. Check with your dealer if you need additional information.
 - Purchase a charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. DTE suggests that you "purchase a Level 2 charger that is ENERGY STAR® certified or shares the same manufacturer as your EV."
 - Plug Level I EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. NEVER USE A MULTIPLUG ADAPTER OR EXTENSION CORD.
 - Install a residual current device with the charging unit. It will turn off the power if a fault is detected and help prevent a fire.
- Place all charging device components out of reach of children when not in use.
 - Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines. Signs of excessive wear may indicate a potential shock hazard. Never use an EV charger with obvious signs of damage.
 - If installed out-of-doors, cover the charging station outlet to stop water from entering. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

BY CATHY JASKIEWICZ, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEMBER

ELECTIONS UPDATE

The 2024 Presidential Primary marked an historic achievement in terms of voter access in Michigan. For the first time state-wide, all voters had access to three options for voting: no-reason absentee voting starting 45 days before Election Day, 9 continuous days of in-person Early Voting, and Election Day in-person voting at the polls. Thirty-one percent (4,728 of 15,146) of voters in Scio chose to vote in the Presidential Primary compared to 24 percent countywide. We are still the votingest community in the county!

Scio Township has partnered with Washtenaw County to administer Early Voting as cost effectively as possible. **We are proud to offer Scio Township Hall as an Early Voting hub** for voters from Scio, Northfield Township, Ann Arbor Township, Webster Township, and the City of Dexter. Several Scio voters expressed their appreciation for the convenience of being able to pop in to vote at Township Hall during these 9 days that, in February, spanned two weekends and a holiday. In fact, Scio Township Hall was the most popular Early Voting hub of any in the county.

Scio Township is well served by the dedicated teams of Election Inspectors that serve at

polling places and counting absentee ballots each election. These trained community members carry out election processes efficiently, properly, and with a considerable amount of grace. Thank you!

Looking forward, our next elections in Scio Township will be the **Tuesday August 6 Primary Election and the November 8 General Election**. The August 6 Primary is the opportunity to vote for the Democratic and Republican nominees for precinct delegate, seven Scio Township offices, five county-wide offices, county commissioner, state house representative, US Representative, and US Senator; as well as to vote for district court judge, circuit court judge, probate court judge; and on any County, School District, or Township proposals. All seven Township offices are on the ballot this August and November. **If you are interested in running for either the Democratic or Republican nomination to office of Township Clerk, Supervisor, Treasurer, or Trustee (4 seats), file your Affidavit of Identity and signed petition forms (or \$100 fee) by 4 pm on Tuesday April 23.** Stop by the Clerk's Office in Township Hall beforehand to pick up these forms. The

BY MARY GILLIS, DEPUTY CLERK

office is open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

For those of you voting absentee, be sure to upload your summer address at Michigan.gov/vote if you are going to be away from your primary residence when ballots go out. The Post Office does not forward or hold election mail. Voters on the Permanent Application list will find an application for a ballot in their mailboxes by the end of May. The actual absentee ballots will begin to go out the last week of June. **Email clerk@sciotownship.org if you would like to be added to the Permanent Ballot List.** Early Voting for the August 6 primary will begin two Saturdays before the election, at 9 am on July 27, and continue through 5 pm on Sunday, August 4. Absentee ballots can be returned to the Clerk's Office until 8 pm on Election Day and may be brought to Early Voting or to your polling place on Election Day to be tabulated.

HAPPY VOTING IN THE SUMMER OF 2024!

Election Day, August 6, 7 am - 8 pm
Early Voting, July 27-August 4, 9 am - 5 pm
Absentee ballots available starting June 22
Absentee ballots due by 8 pm on August 6

HÜGELKULTUR IN OUR TOWNSHIP

BY TIM REDMOND, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

If you have never heard of it, hügelkultur is a centuries-old European method of composting and making rich soil.

Hügelkultur gardens are basically made from yard waste--decaying logs, fallen branches, tree trimmings, prunings, grass clippings, wood chips, or any vegetable matter. Residents and visitors to Scio Township can see a farm-scale version of this method at work at the Honey Bee U-Pick Patch at Tantre Farm, located on the northeast corner of Zeeb and Scio Church Roads. The hügelkultur method not only makes **a far better environmental alternative to wood- and leaf-burning** but offers rich garden growing space and naturally raised beds which means less bending over. And YOU CAN DO IT! Here's how:

To make a 4' x 8' raised vegetable or flower-growing bed, dig out the area to a depth of 6-9" and set the topsoil aside. Layer logs and large brush in the bottom of the trench, and add yard waste on top of the logs, graduating from the bigger stuff at the bottom to successive layers of smaller materials such as wood chips, leaves,

soil, or grass clippings, building up a mound about 3' tall. Including nitrogen-rich, fresh grass clippings, or any green waste or manure, speeds up the breakdown process. Last, back on top goes the soil initially dug out, any grass roots facing up for the sun to kill. The wood at the bottom rots and breaks down slowly, becoming a "water sink," providing moisture to whatever is growing in the top or side layers. Beneficial soil bacteria does its thing, and lowers the pile over time, the top layer getting richer and richer in

nutrients for your plants growing in it.

The benefits of hügelkultur to the farm and ecosystem include reducing runoff, relying on seep moisture to keep plants watered, encouraging good soil bacteria, and sequestering carbon in the soil rather than releasing it into the atmosphere. To learn more, visit offthegridnews.com and search for hügelkultur.



Hugelkulture at Tantre Farm: You can see huge piles of logs and woody brush and vegetable debris (much of it the result of last winter's ice storm) piled high with wood chips and leaves filling in on top of the long rows. Photo credit: Tim Redmond

HELP MIGRATING BIRDS

Every spring, billions of birds migrate through the night sky across the US. This mass movement of birds must contend with light pollution, the effects of which kill an estimated one billion birds annually. You can help:

- Turn off spotlights or decorative outdoor lighting
- Turn off interior lights when leaving a room or draw your blinds/shades/curtains
- Use down-shielded outdoor lighting
- Add timers or motion sensors to outdoor lighting.

The Great Lakes chapter of the Audubon Society and the Michigan DNR have joined forces to increase all Michiganders' engagement in the understanding, care, and stewardship of public lands that are important for birds and communities. Find out more about this effort online at GL.Audubon.org.



New boulevard signage added at Jackson-Wagner intersection courtesy of the DDA.

Photo credit: Ryan Yaple



CONGRATULATIONS FIREFIGHTERS



January 8, 2024, marked the 5-year service anniversary for Scio Township Firefighter/EMTs Glen Cobb, Chris Collier, and Chris Samborn. We are truly grateful for your dedication, bravery, and selfless service to Scio residents, businesses, and visitors – thank you!

WELCOME TO AURORA NORTHRUP

Aurora is a human resources generalist with 20 years HR experience working in both the private and public sectors. Aurora joined the staff in December as Scio Township's first human resources professional. Aurora's priorities are staff retention, employee appreciation, and creating policies and procedures. Township staff are grateful to have Aurora's support and expertise!

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TAX ID THEFT

When someone uses your Social Security number (SSN) to file a phony tax return and claim your refund, that's tax-related identity theft. When someone uses your SSN to earn wages — which are then reported as your income — that's employment-related tax identity theft. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is often the first to let you know your identity has been stolen. **IRS notices about tax-related identity theft are only sent by mail — not by email, text or social media messages** that ask for your personal

or financial information. If you are a victim of any type of identity theft, follow the steps recommended by the Federal Trade Commission and file a complaint at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).

Protect your personal information — and that of your dependents.

- Do not give out your SSN unless there's a good reason and you're sure who you are giving it to and how they will protect it.
- File your tax return as early as you can.
- If you file electronically, use a secure internet connection.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

- If filing by mail, send your tax return directly from the post office.
- Research a tax preparer thoroughly before you hand over your personal information — and never send your personal information in a text or email.

Contact the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit at: 517-335-7599, Toll free: 877-765-8388, secure.ag.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx.

WELCOME CHRIS CHENG!

The Board of Trustees created a new position, Project Manager, in 2021 to handle the day-to-day management of the variety of public projects that they have vetted, approved, and budgeted for. In late 2023, they found the perfect person for the job, Chris Cheng, a planning and zoning specialist with the City of Ann Arbor for more than 25 years. Chris is a longtime resident of Scio who decided "I can do more good for residents working on public projects than private ones," and applied to join the staff here at Township Hall. If you're not sure what a planning and zoning specialist does, you're not alone. Turns out, it is someone who works on anything constructed. In Ann Arbor, Chris guided projects from the inquiry stage to the delivery of the Certificate of Occupancy. Along the way he organized and facilitated and liaised with departments, committees, agencies, anyone in fact who had a part in performing, overseeing, or approving work on the project



over however many months or years it took. **As project manager in Scio, he will investigate, facilitate, and guide to fruition priorities identified by the Board of Trustees.**

Chris brings people-skills honed during those years in Ann Arbor, as well as knowledge of the laws and regulations governing planning and zoning, to the wide variety of projects, both in-

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

the-works and just-being-dreamt-of, assigned to him here in Scio. So far, he has been assigned to work with the Roads Advisory Committee, and the advisory committee recently formed to examine public transit needs in the Township. In addition, he is taking on some of the work of the Parks, Preserves and Pathways Director, Anna Cone, who has recently resigned her position. Seeing Phase V of the Zeeb Road Pathway to completion will be quite a feat!

Chris is married, has three kids and two grandchildren. He's been living in Scio since 2004 and loves golf and traveling. Chris is excited about joining the home team by becoming Scio's first project manager. He hopes to "do the most good for the most people" through this work. Thank you Chris, we're glad you're batting for the home team!

THANK YOU ANNA CONE!

In March, we said goodbye to Anna Cone, whose brief tenure as the first director of the Parks, Preserves, and Pathways department saw a surge in activity and interest in the Township's green spaces. Anna, your seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm, your facility equally with updating the website and transforming residents into parks volunteers, will be greatly missed. We wish you all success in your next job and hope you plan to keep an eye (and your feet!) on Scio's parks in the future.

JACKSON ROAD CRUISE CELEBRATES SWEET 16.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 8, when more than 300 cars and motorcycles will strut their stuff on and around Jackson Road for the sixteenth year of the Jackson Road Cruise. This cruise is open to all makes and models of classic, modern, or souped-up cars and motorcycles. Attendees enjoy the variety of vehicles on display as well as food trucks, a beer tent, and a silent auction. Get a closer look at these special vehicles, which will be parked in the LaFontaine INFINITI and Tesla parking lots. Parking for the public is in the former Quality-16 lot. All proceeds go to charity—this year will benefit the Cancer Support Community. (cancersupportcommunity.org). For more information visit jrcruise.org.





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 – 4 pm

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

OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—
whathaway@sciotownship.org

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—
jflintoft@sciotownship.org

Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—
depalmer@sciotownship.org

Mark Brazeau, Trustee —
mbrazeau@sciotownship.org

Jillian Kerry, Trustee —
jkerry@sciotownship.org

Kathleen Knol, Trustee—
kknol@sciotownship.org

John Reiser, Trustee —
jreiser@sciotownship.org

TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org

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Editor Mary Gillis
Graphic Design Julie Tanguay
Printing and Mailing Allegra

SENIOR STAFF

Joyce Parker, Manager –
jparker@sciotownship.org

Andrew Houde, Fire Chief –
ahoude@sciotownship.org

Andrea Garrett, Assessor —
algarrett@sciotownship.org

Brandon McNiel, Utilities Director —
bmcniel@sciotownship.org

Chris Cheng, Project Manager --
ccheng@sciotownship.org

Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator —
kaiken@sciotownship.org

Sean McCormick, Ordinance Enforcement —
smccormick@sciotownship.org

UTILITIES

In Scio:
8 am – 4 pm..... (734) 369-9350
After hours(734) 651-4770

In Loch Alpine:
Water or sewer emergencies... (248) 433-8904
Non-emergencies (517)673-8369
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

WASHTENAW COUNTY

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

County Road Commission (734) 761-1500
wrc@wccroads.org

County Commissioners

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski
maciejewskij@washtenaw.org

District 9 – Katie Scott
scottk@washtenaw.org

County Sheriff Scio Station

For emergencies 911
Business line (734) 994-2911

STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Representative

District 47 - Carrie Rheingans... (855) 627-5052
carrierheingans@house.mi.gov

District 33 - Felicia Brabec (517) 373-2420
feliciabrabec@house.mi.gov

District 48 – Jennifer Conlin... (517) 373-7557
JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov

State Senator

District 14 – Sue Shink (517) 373-2426
SenSSHink@senate.michigan.gov

Governor

Gretchen Whitmer (517) 373-3400
gwhitmer@michigan.gov

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Representative

District 6 – Debbie Dingell ... (202) 225-4071
debbiedingell.house.gov

U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow..... (202) 224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

Gary Peters..... (202) 224-6221
peters.senate.gov

President of the United States

Joe Biden..... (202) 456-1111
whitehouse.gov