



# TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE RENEW AND RESTORE

**S**cio voters will face a choice on a proposal to renew and restore the Scio Township Transportation Millage when they vote in the August 6 primary election. The Board of Trustees placed the Renew and Restore Proposal on the ballot based on the recommendation of the Scio Township Transit and Bus Advisory Committee. Renewing the Transportation Millage and restoring it to its original rate prior

to the Headlee Rollback ensures that Scio Township continues to receive essential bus and associated services. The millage, originally approved by voters in 2015, expires in December 2024.

**WHAT IS THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE?**

The proposed millage rate is 0.3627 mill (\$0.3627 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of ten years, from 2025 to 2034. This rate restores the original millage rate approved

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR,  
AND JOYCE PARKER, MANAGER

in 2015, which was subsequently decreased due to the Headlee Rollback. For a home valued at \$100,000 (with a 50% taxable value of \$50,000), the proposed millage rate of 0.3627 mill will cost approximately \$18.14 per year. That's just about \$1.51 per month to maintain and enhance public transit services.

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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT ROUTES?

There are three Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) fixed bus 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. Additionally, WAVE (Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express) provides two "community connector" routes that include the western end of Jackson Road. WAVE also provides door-to-door services throughout the Township.

## HOW WILL TRANSIT SERVICES BE FUNDED?

The renewed millage will continue to fund AAATA fixed routes, A-Ride services for people with disabilities and seniors, and WAVE community connector routes. The millage, combined with other funding sources, will also support pedestrian improvements for safer access to bus transit. In addition:

- **Increased Weekend Frequency:**

AAATA plans to increase bus frequency on weekends, reducing wait times from 60 minutes to 30 minutes before 6:00 pm.

- **Extended Service Hours:**

Longer operating hours to better serve residents' schedules.

- **Route Expansion:**

Potential expanded WAVE route to include a stop on Baker Road to accommodate anticipated housing growth in that area.

- **Enhanced Flex-Ride Services:**

Increased door-to-door services by WAVE throughout the Township.

- **Go Pass Program:** A partnership with the Downtown Development Authority to provide bus passes for employees working along the Jackson Road Corridor.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit [Sciotownship.org/bus](http://Sciotownship.org/bus) to review minutes and recordings of the meetings of the Scio Township Transit and Bus Advisory Committee. Send your questions to [tbac@sciotownship.org](mailto:tbac@sciotownship.org).

### EMERGENCY ALERTS

Sign up for **Washtenaw Alerts**, a service offered by Washtenaw County that pushes emergency notifications to your phone. Go to [Washtenaw.org/alerts](http://Washtenaw.org/alerts) to choose from a range of life-safety notifications, from severe weather to missing persons.

### COUNTY CRIME DATA DASHBOARD

Aiming to provide complete, accurate, and relevant information in a format that is easy to understand, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office has created a Data and Information Dashboard. Check it out at [washtenaw.org/WCSODashboard](http://washtenaw.org/WCSODashboard).

# WELCOME BARB CALLEJA!

Visitors to Township Hall this election season may have the pleasure of meeting Barb Calleja (kah-lee-jah), the new deputy clerk. Barb is the former clerk of Webster Township, who resigned to come to Scio in order to expand her skills in a larger jurisdiction. Barb was born into a large family in Plymouth, Michigan, and was relocated to the state of Maine when her father retired from General Motors to manage a country inn. Barb says her experience working in the family business has stood her in good stead as a clerk. The long hours during elections and service-orientation of helping people vote were very familiar from those early days.

Barb was recruited to clerk work by the treasurer of Webster Township. Back when she was a stay-at-home mom with four children in school, she needed work that was near home



with flexible hours and starting as a deputy clerk during those years "was perfect for me." After three years she became the clerk of Webster Township, an elected position she held

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

for 8 years before resigning to come to Scio to be Clerk Flintoft's deputy. By way of explanation for this seemingly surprising decision, Barb says, "I had no reason to want to leave Webster. I heard about the position and Jessica has always been a clerk-hero of mine. This was an opportunity to take on a new challenge."

Barb fits right in here in Township Hall, where she has charmed the front office staff with her ready smile and willingness to learn our ways. She says, "I look forward to working with the crew here and serving Scio Township." "I am delighted to bring in Barb Calleja as my deputy," says Clerk Flintoft. "Her experience as a clerk, commitment to excellence, and her dedication to public service will be put to good use for the people of Scio Township."

# CLERK'S COLUMN

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

**S**ciotownship has two upcoming elections: the August 6 State Primary Election, and the November 5 State General (and Presidential) Election.

Confirm your voter registration and view a sample ballot for the August 6 election by visiting the Michigan Voter Information Center, [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote). Direct any questions or concerns to the Clerk's Office by phone, 734-369-9400, or email [clerk@sciotownship.org](mailto:clerk@sciotownship.org). You can also stop by Township Hall any Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

## VOTE ABSENTEE

If you signed up to automatically receive an absentee ballot for the August 6 election, you may have already received your ballot. Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot by requesting one online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) or stopping by the Clerk's Office with a photo ID. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Clerk's Office by 8 pm on Election Day.

## VOTE EARLY

Voters who wish to cast their ballot in person during the 9 days of Early Voting before the election may vote at Scio Township Hall or at the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center (4135 Washtenaw Ave in Ann Arbor): July 27 – August 4.

## VOTE AT THE POLLS

And, of course, voters may vote in their precincts on Election Day. See the map on the back of this newsletter to find your polling place or go online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote).

Do you know a civilian living outside of the US, or a member of the US military stationed domestically or abroad? These voters have additional rights and are encouraged to complete and return a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) as soon as possible (visit [FVAP.gov](https://FVAP.gov) for information and application materials).

## READING THE BALLOT

The August 6 ballot has two sections, a Partisan section and a Proposal section. There are four proposals on this ballot, including the Township's Transportation Millage Proposal (see the front page of this issue for more information). The Partisan section has two columns: "Democratic Party" and "Republican Party." Voters may choose among candidates within one column or the other but may not cross over to vote for candidates within both parties.

The Partisan offices on the August 6 ballot are US Senator, US Congressional Representative, Representative in State Legislature, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk & Registrar of Deeds, County Treasurer, County Water Resources Commissioner, County Commissioner, Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, Township Trustee, and Precinct Delegate to County Convention. If you are not sure of your district, check your Voter Information card, look it up at [Michigan.gov/](https://Michigan.gov/)

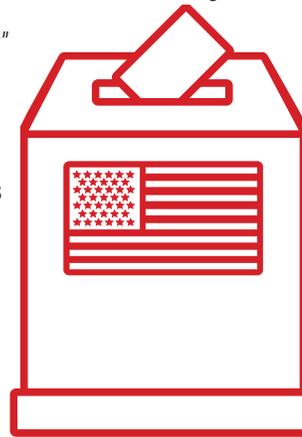
Vote, or call the Clerk's Office at 734-369-9400 so we can look up your information for you.

Do you want to run for Township office without political affiliation? Such candidates must file a Qualifying Petition with 60 to 150 signatures of registered electors and an Affidavit of Identity before 4:00 pm, Thursday, July 18, 2024, in order to qualify to be placed on the November ballot. Contact the Clerk's Office at 734-369-9400 for filing forms.

Here in Scio, voters will select the Democratic nominees for the seven Township offices during the August 6, 2024 State Primary election. Since

there are no candidates for Republican nominees, the selected Democratic nominees will appear on the November 5 General Election ballot along with any qualified candidates without political affiliation. Voters will then elect their Township officials from these choices for the four-year term of the Scio

Township Board of Trustees.



## EARLY VOTING

Township Hall

Saturday July 27 - Sunday August 4

9 am - 5 pm (including weekends)

## 3 Ways to Vote This November

1. In person on Election Day, at your regular precinct polling place
2. Via Absentee Ballot starting June 27
3. During 9 Days of Early Voting, in person, at Scio Township Hall

People experiencing or witnessing voter intimidation at a polling place or an early voting location are encouraged to contact the Michigan Department of Attorney General by email at [miag@michigan.gov](mailto:miag@michigan.gov), or call 517-335-7659.

# LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

BY CHIEF ANDREW HOUDE

The Fire Service is full of traditions but as a relatively young program Scio is in the process of developing our own traditions. Part of building that history is honoring those whose service has come to an end and welcoming the next generation of leaders. The personnel changes we saw in the Department this spring gave us a chance to start that tradition here in Scio.

First, after 25 years, Captain Dan Burke decided to hang up his helmet and retire. A potluck celebration was held at Township Hall late in May, and Captain Burke was honored with a Board resolution in recognition of his many years of service. Dan's retirement calls to mind the many times he was able to make a difference in the lives of those affected by fire and health emergencies in and around our township. Dan was a founding member when the department was first created, and his fire helmet, which we awarded him upon his retirement, shows the wear and tear, scars and stains, of his years of service in what we call "the best job in the world." We wish Dan well in retirement!

Lieutenant Brett Bourne was promoted to captain upon Dan's retirement. Brett has been with the Department since 2013 as a full-time firefighter and served an additional 10 years as a paid-on call firefighter before that. Rising from Lieutenant to Captain means a change from "seeing and doing" to "thinking and directing," with fellow firefighters relying on their captains to see the big picture and make the right decisions to get the job done and keep them safe. As well as new administrative tasks and taking on the role of managing others, now-Captain Bourne has some learning to do but will be supported by myself and Assistant Chief Sears. Congratulations Captain Brett!



(From left:) Captain Burke (retired), Captain Bourne, Lieutenant Cobb, and Chief Houde

Firefighter Glen Cobb was promoted to fill the Lieutenant opening created by Brett's promotion to Captain. I consider the role of lieutenant the most difficult position in the crew because it requires the person to move back and forth between leader and do-er. The move into leadership begins with taking on the role of lieutenant, and I encourage Glen to learn all he can from the captains and other lieutenants, as well as finish his education. We are here to help you and prepare you for further growth.

To add to the changes at the Fire Station, Brent Newsom came on board as a full-time firefighter in late June. Brent is a retired fire captain for the City of Monroe with a master's level specialized degree in fire administration. He is anticipating with some satisfaction leaving behind the administrative tasks and he is very welcome here at the STFD! We have full confidence that Brett, Glen, and Brent will ably fill the boots of those who served before them.

The same night the Board of Trustees honored retiring Captain Burke and incoming Captain Bourne and Lieutenant Cobb, our Fire Investigator, "Skip" Davis, was also honored for his career of public service by Balfor Property Restoration. Skip has served the public for over 5 decades, first through military service, and then as a police officer for the City of Detroit, Washtenaw County (including road patrol here in Scio), and the Metroparks, and as a firefighter in Pittsfield Township. Skip, while mostly retired, still serves Scio Township and neighboring communities as a fire investigator. He is the definition of a public servant, always ready to help at the drop of a hat, and we thank him for his service.



# WELCOME BRENT NEWSOM!

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

**C**hief Houde has recruited Firefighter Brent Newsom from the City of Monroe, where he rose through the ranks from paid-on call firefighter to captain over 25 years. As captain, Brent enjoyed shaping the department in Monroe, and mentoring younger firefighters but of the many things he loves about this work it is clear that public service is the highlight. He says, "it's rewarding, it's exciting, but at the end of the day, it's about spreading your knowledge and making someone's day a little better."



Scio Township and the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution would like to extend their deepest thanks to Guardian Tree Experts, who donated their equipment and crew to clear the brush and tree debris from Popkins Cemetery on Pratt Road during its recent restoration.

[MiFarmLink.org](http://MiFarmLink.org). Helping to preserve Michigan farms and farming by shepherding prime farmland from its current stewards into the hands of the next generation, and supporting these new farmers to be successful.

Stay up to date on the latest air quality alerts at [AirNow.gov](http://AirNow.gov).

## SAFETY RULES FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES, BY CATHY JASKIEWICZ, ESTF

- Lithium-ion batteries are used in most electric vehicles, in eBikes, laptops, tablets, cell phones, and in many other electronic devices.
- Lithium-ion batteries are best kept at temperatures between 32 F and 105 F. Extreme temperatures cause them to degrade more quickly.
- Stop using lithium-ion batteries if you notice an odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises.
- Don't put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycle them at Washtenaw County Home Toxics Center, 734-222-3050, [hometoxicscenter.org](http://hometoxicscenter.org). Store spare lithium-ion batteries away from anything that can burn.

## FIREWORKS

The Board of Trustees has approved 2 fireworks displays this summer:

- Loch Alpine, June 29
- Herron Farms, July 4

Consumer-grade fireworks are allowed by ordinance in Scio Township from 11 am to 11:45 pm on these upcoming dates:

August 31 - September 2



# SCIO FLYERS: MORE THAN A HOBBY

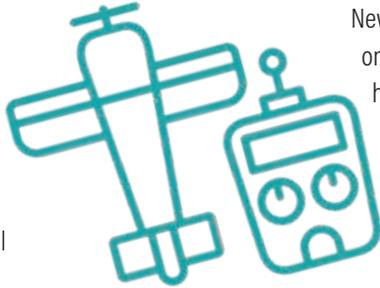
BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

recently had the pleasure to spend some time with Jim Hartwell (president) and Dan Rogers (treasurer) of the Scio Flyers, a club of radio-controlled model airplane enthusiasts whose flying field since 1988 is Township Hall Park. Known among themselves as "R.C.'ers," this group of jolly hobbyists is eager to share the fun of model airplane flying with newcomers. "If you try it once, you'll be hooked," says Hartwell.

Operating out of a field in the center of Township Hall Park, club members are often approached by dog-walkers asking to give it a go. Interested public will be glad to know there are always registered instructors available to teach newcomers, using the "buddy box" for try'ers 10-17 years of age. (If you imagine a radio-controlled model

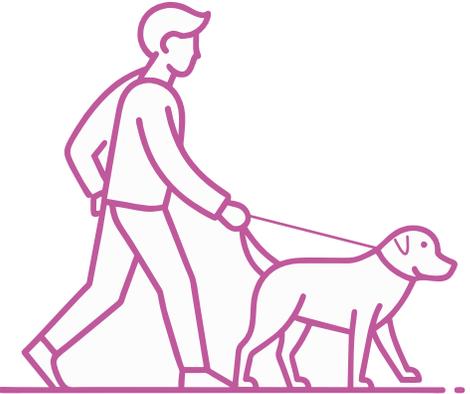
airplane version of the set-up that driving instructors use for cars, you'll have the idea of a buddy box.) Training for newcomers is available every Wednesday, from 5 pm til sundown. The club's policy is "just show up and ask to learn. Camaraderie is half the fun," says Rogers.

Scio Flyers are mainly active April through October though they do host an event dubbed the "Fanny Freeze" on New Year's Day, and the club has one particularly avid member who has flown more than 500 days in a row. Rules of the game: No alcohol is allowed. Drone-flyers are welcome but must have a spotter (someone who is able to keep an eye on the craft, since drones are guided by an operator whose sight is occupied by the camera mounted on the drone). Scio Flyers pride themselves on being good neighbors and flying beyond



the boundaries of the field—over the nearby preschool, Fire House, or residences—is against the rules. They do not fly before 10 am or after 8 pm, and engine noise levels are restricted below 92 decibels (similar to a car engine). Since the wide adoption of electric engines in model airplanes, however, these decibels are rarely reached.

Tempted to find out more? Scio Flyers is hosting two picnics this summer, on July 20 and August 17, and September 21 is the annual Night Fly, when members decorate their planes with lights and enjoy the resulting spectacle. Find out more by visiting [scioflyers.com](http://scioflyers.com) or just show up any day when the weather is good: Township Hall Park, behind 827 N Zeeb Road. You may have just found a new way to have fun!



## REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Victims of human trafficking or those who have identified someone they think may need help can contact the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](http://National Human Trafficking Resource Center) at 888-373-7888 or text 233733. This is a national, toll-free hotline, that is available to answer calls, texts, and chats from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. All calls are confidential.

## DOG ETIQUETTE

This is a reminder that dog owners must keep their dogs leashed when off the owner's property, according to Township Ordinance (chapter 8, section 20(b)). Even if you think you are alone on a trail in one of our preserves, you may find out that you are not only after you have frightened or even harmed another person or their pet. This applies to friendly dogs too. Your dog may be friendly but if it runs up to a dog or person that is fearful or aggressive, problems may ensue. According to the ordinance, a dog which is off the owner's property without being on a leash is considered to be stray or running at large, which subjects the owner to the penalties of a civil infraction. Please be a responsible dog owner and keep your dog on a leash while out walking or jogging. Your fellow residents thank you!

# ROADS UPDATE

The 2024 construction season in Washtenaw County has kicked into high gear.

- Traffic is efficiently moving through the newly constructed single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Miller Road and Zeeb Road.
- The D3 Segment of the Border-to-Border Trail along the Huron River is taking shape. You may have noticed the installation of the new pedestrian bridge, though there are still a few items to complete before the bridge is officially open to the public.
- The contract for the Jackson Road Concrete Rehabilitation project (between Jackson Industrial Dr and Myrtle Ave) has been awarded. The contractor intends to start work in the westbound lanes in mid-July. This project is funded by a partnership between the Road Commission and the Scio Downtown Development Authority.

We urge drivers to put down the distractions, pay attention, move over, and slow down in work zones, especially during construction season. Moms, dads, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, and uncles make up the road construction crews.

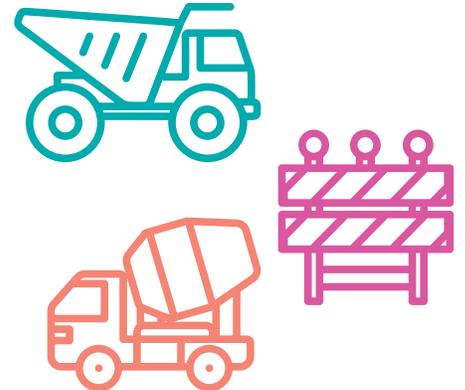
Many of the current projects are funded in part by the four-year county-wide Roads and Non-Motorized Millage renewed by voters in 2020. Washtenaw County voters are being asked to renew and restore this millage on the August 6, 2024, ballot. Visit our website [bit.ly/washtenawroadandpathmillage](https://bit.ly/washtenawroadandpathmillage) to learn more about the millage and the proposed projects planned.

Stay up to date with local roads projects and receive project updates via email by subscribing at [wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/](https://wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/).

BY TIFFANY OLIPHANT, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION



Keep up with doings at the Washtenaw County Road Commission by joining their chat room, open every Wednesday from noon to 1 pm, staffed by WCRC Board members and senior leaders.



Thanks to the Roads Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees, and American Rescue Plan funding, this summer the County Road Commission will improve the following local roads: (gravel uplifts) Stein Road, Tubbs Road, Delhi Court, Lamplighter Drive, Pheasant Drive, Deerfield Place, Luella Ave, Burton Ave, Myrtle Ave; (repaving) Parkridge Drive east from Laurentide Drive to end of pavement, and Laurentide Drive from Maple Rd to end of pavement. When construction begins, remember to keep your windows closed until the first rain. There will be considerable dust and odor from the new limestone. After the first rain the dust and odor should dissipate. Make sure to plan your commute accordingly.



# LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

hope you all are enjoying your summer! It's that time again, the start of a new tax season. By now you should have your 2024 Summer Tax Bill if your taxes are not

paid through your mortgage.

If you should have received your tax bill and have not yet, please call our office, 734-369-9400, or stop in at Township Hall.

BY DONNA E. PALMER, TREASURER

Thank you once again for your help and kind remarks. You make my job easy!

# THIS YEAR'S PARK STEWARDS HARD AT WORK

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

If you have walked in one of Scio's parks this summer, you are enjoying fruits of the labor of this year's park stewards, John Hocking and Yanson Wang. John and Yanson have been working on clearing park

trails of early-season overgrowth and storm debris since late May. John (the more talkative of the pair) is a recent graduate from Eastern Michigan University in Earth Sciences looking to gain experience in working out of doors as



*This year's park stewards (from left) John Hocking and Yanson Wang.*

his profession. Yanson (who isn't as quiet as sitting next to John makes him seem) is a student of Environmental Studies at Michigan State University, home for the summer and hoping to re-create in the Township's parks the experiences he has had exploring state parks. Both are Scio residents.

In addition to mowing and clearing trails, the park stewards' regular work focuses on clearing the parks of invasive plants. They concentrate on invasive species living along the trails because those are the plants that catch on visitors' shoes, clothing, and dogs, helping to spread the

unwanted plants. Their early-season priorities have been the Van Curler Preserve, which they are helping prepare to open to the public, Sloan Preserve (located off Baker Road), and Liberty Pond, which had become so overgrown by early June that the trails had become invisible in some areas. On rainy days (not many so far) they clean and maintain their equipment and map the parks for areas to focus on in future. The hope is that someday they will be able to provide maps to volunteers interested in helping clear invasives from the parks. They always work as a pair as a safeguard against injury since they are working with chainsaws and mowers far from human habitation at times. So far, they have not had much trouble with ticks but always wear long pants and high socks, and conduct regular checks for ticks.

If you happen to see John and Yanson in the parks, stop and say hello. They both possess a wealth of information on your local parks and safely enjoying the out-of-doors in general.

## TOP 6 MOST (UN)WANTED PLANTS

### GARLIC MUSTARD



### DAME'S ROCKET



### HONEYSUCKLE



### BUCKTHORN



### MULTIFLORA ROSE



### POISON IVY



If you see any of these species along the trails in our parks, feel free to pull them, but be sure to bag the seed tops of garlic mustard and dame's rocket, as dropping them on the ground at this point in their growth will actually spread their seeds!

# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

## FIRE STATION SOLAR PARK RESTORATION

Many of you are aware of the solar array at the Fire Station, which was installed in 2023 and has been in continuous operation for a full year. On June 1, more than 20 volunteers learned to identify and remove early-summer invasive plants and then dug in 200 native plant plugs in front of the solar array. In addition, the ground under and around the solar array was prepared to accept a native wildflower mix this fall. The plan is to make that area zero maintenance, which helps protect the solar panels, provides better absorption of runoff, and is better suited to the area than turf grass. These plants not only fix carbon from the atmosphere, but their deep roots will help water infiltrate the soil, preventing erosion, and provide filtration for the stormwater flowing off the parking lot. Many thanks to our contractor and the volunteers from the Environmental Sustainability Task Force and the Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Committee for helping create a suitable backdrop to this sustainability project! The solar array has so far generated about 43 million KWh of electricity--which prevented the generation of just under 70,000 lbs. of CO2 and is the equivalent of planting more than 500 trees.

Native plants are well-adapted to the climate and soil, need no fertilization and little water once established. They also provide food and cover for a host of bird and insect species. Explore how you too can reduce the amount of time you spend mowing grass and improve the world for birds, bees, and people by visiting [pollinators.msu.edu\\_washtenaw.org/raingardens\\_and](http://pollinators.msu.edu_washtenaw.org/raingardens_and) [www.washtenawcd.org/invasive-species--control](http://www.washtenawcd.org/invasive-species--control).

## MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES AWARDS SCIO SILVER!

Scio Township achieved Silver status for its sustainability progress in 2023. **The Michigan Green Communities Challenge** ([migreencommunities.com](http://migreencommunities.com)) is an annual program that serves as a guide to help communities measure their progress towards sustainability. Established in 2009, Michigan Green Communities (MGC) is a statewide sustainability benchmarking, networking, and technical assistance program. Scio Township joined Michigan Green Communities in 2023 to help guide our sustainability planning and implementation. Achieving Silver status enables Scio to have a Fellow and Technical Advisor



BY JAN CULBERTSON, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

work on a project to support our sustainability efforts for 10 weeks during the summer of 2025.

## \$100,000 COMMUNITY ENERGY MANAGEMENT GRANT

Scio Township has received a substantial grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) to improve energy management and accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The maximum grant award is \$100,000 per applicant. Two years ago, Scio was awarded a smaller grant amount that was used to replace fluorescent lights in Township Hall with LEDs. This new round of funding will go toward the replacement of three rooftop HVAC units beyond their end of life with more efficient HVAC options in support of the goal of achieving carbon neutrality in Township operations by 2030. The project will improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality in the original portion of Township Hall, which was built in 1986.



## Save the Date!

### SCIO'S SECOND ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

Sunday, October 6, 1-4 PM  
Under the tent at the Zeeb Road Meijer, next to the garden shop

The Fair is FREE and includes demonstrations, discussions with experts, and activities for children and adults that show how sustainability can be approachable, economical, and fun!

# FROM THE UTILITIES DIRECTOR

## FRIENDLY SEWER-USER REMINDER

This is a reminder to comply with Scio Township Ordinance (chapter 34, sec 34-88, Prohibited Discharges), which prohibits discharging certain substances into the sewer system. Please ensure that no hazardous materials, oils, grease, paints, chemicals, or non-biodegradable items are disposed of via our sewer lines. Such discharges can cause significant damage to the system, leading to costly repairs and potential service disruptions. Your cooperation is essential to maintaining the integrity of our sewer infrastructure and ensuring safe and efficient service for all residents. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

## UTILITY BILL RATE INCREASE

As of July 1, 2024, the Board of Trustees has approved rate increases for both sewer and water. The Scio Township water and sewer system is fully supported by the fees charged to customers in the district. In making the decision to raise rates, the Board considered financial projections to support planned capital needs, ongoing maintenance, and emergency

reserves. To view the full projection, review the documents listed at [sciotownship.org/ratestudy](http://sciotownship.org/ratestudy).

The new water rate will be \$12.46 per 1,000 gallons, and the new sewer rate will be \$12.86 per 1,000 gallons. I understand this increase is significant. For those needing assistance to pay their utility bills, reach out to me directly at [bmcniel@sciotownship.org](mailto:bmcniel@sciotownship.org).

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

The annual Water Quality Report is newly published, containing detailed data from testing municipal water during the previous year, as well as current water-related news (who spotted the pun?). Copies of the Report have been mailed to every water customer in the district. Additional copies are available at Township Hall, on the website at [sciotownship.org/waterquality](http://sciotownship.org/waterquality), or you can request an electronic copy via email at [bmcniel@sciotownship.org](mailto:bmcniel@sciotownship.org).



BY BRANDON MCNIEL,  
UTILITIES DIRECTOR



## PUT POISONS IN THEIR PLACE

Remember that cleaners, chemicals, oil, paint, and other home toxics should never be poured down a sink or toilet, into a storm drain, or onto the ground. To keep them out of our water supply, dispose of them at the Washtenaw County Home Toxic Center located at 705 N Zeeb Road. Schedule an appointment or view the Saturday drop-off schedule at [HomeToxicsCenter.org](http://HomeToxicsCenter.org) or call 734-222-3950.

# WELCOME ZACH COLE!

Zach is the newest Utility Technician to join the team in the Utility Department. Since starting on June 3, he has been part of the effort to replace outdated and failing water meters with the new Metron meters the Board adopted throughout the water district this year. Zach did similar work for the City of Saline for 5 years, where he also shared responsibility for cleaning sewers with the vector truck. These experiences made him an attractive candidate to Utility Director McNiel. Zach hopes to expand his knowledge base and skills through working with our booster and lift stations. In his spare



BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

time he enjoys camping in the Irish Hills and plans to marry next year. Zach's message to Township residents is: "I'm glad to be here and I'll do the best I can for everybody." Welcome to the team Zach!

## NEW WATER RATE

Effective July 1, the new water rate will be \$12.46 per 1,000 gallons, and the new sewer rate will be \$12.86 per 1,000 gallons.

## INSULATION HELPS IN THE SUMMER MONTHS TOO!

As climate change makes summers hotter, take proactive steps to enhance your home's resistance to the heat. Here are some ideas: Seal cracks and gaps around windows and doors to prevent hot air from entering the home; upgrade your attic insulation to help block heat transfer from the roof; enhance wall insulation (especially useful in older homes) and use insulated curtains or window blinds to prevent the sun from counteracting your A/C; insulate your HVAC duct work to prevent energy waste and uneven cooling. Saving energy is a cool thing to do: the planet and your wallet will both thank you!

## CONSUMER REMINDER FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL NOT:

- Promise to increase benefits or fix an issue if a fee is paid;
- Threaten arrest or legal action unless money is sent immediately; or
- Demand payment in the form of gift cards, wire transfers, prepaid debit cards, cryptocurrency, or cash sent by mail.

To file a complaint with the Attorney General, contact the Michigan Consumer Protection Team at 517-335-7599, or toll-free: 877-765-8388.

# USEFUL CONTACT INFO

## 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@scioto township.org**  
**clerk@scioto township.org**  
**newsletter@scioto township.org**  
website: [scioto township.org](http://scioto township.org)

## OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—  
[whathaway@scioto township.org](mailto:whathaway@scioto township.org)

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—  
[jflintoft@scioto township.org](mailto:jflintoft@scioto township.org)

Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—  
[depalmer@scioto township.org](mailto:depalmer@scioto township.org)

Mark Brazeau, Trustee —  
[mbrazeau@scioto township.org](mailto:mbrazeau@scioto township.org)

Jillian Kerry, Trustee —  
[jkerry@scioto township.org](mailto:jkerry@scioto township.org)

Kathleen Knol, Trustee—  
[kknol@scioto township.org](mailto:kknol@scioto township.org)

John Reiser, Trustee —  
[jreiser@scioto township.org](mailto:jreiser@scioto township.org)

[TownshipBoard@scioto township.org](mailto:TownshipBoard@scioto township.org)

## SENIOR STAFF

Joyce Parker, Manager —  
[jparker@scioto township.org](mailto:jparker@scioto township.org)

Andrew Houde, Fire Chief —  
[ahoude@scioto township.org](mailto:ahoude@scioto township.org)

Andrea Garrett, Assessor —  
[algarrett@scioto township.org](mailto:algarrett@scioto township.org)

Brandon McNiel, Utilities Director —  
[bmcniel@scioto township.org](mailto:bmcniel@scioto township.org)

Chris Cheng, Project Manager --  
[ccheng@scioto township.org](mailto:ccheng@scioto township.org)

Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator —  
[kaiken@scioto township.org](mailto:kaiken@scioto township.org)

Sean McCormick, Ordinance Enforcement —  
[smccormick@scioto township.org](mailto:smccormick@scioto township.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@scioto township.org](mailto:Fire@scioto township.org)

## WASHTENAW COUNTY

**County Water Resources**  
**Commissioner**.....(734) 222-6860  
[drains@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:drains@ewashtenaw.org)

**County Road Commission**.....(734) 761-1500  
[wcrcc@wccroads.org](mailto:wcrcc@wccroads.org)

## County Commissioners

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski  
[maciejewskij@washtenaw.org](mailto:maciejewskij@washtenaw.org)

District 9 – Katie Scott  
[scottk@washtenaw.org](mailto: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](mailto:carrierheingans@house.mi.gov)

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

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

### State Senator

District 14 – Sue Shink..... (517) 373-2426  
[SenSShink@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenSShink@senate.michigan.gov)

### Governor

Gretchen Whitmer ..... (517) 373-3400  
[gwhitmer@michigan.gov](mailto:gwhitmer@michigan.gov)

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### U.S. Representative

District 6 – Debbie Dingell..... (202) 225-4071  
[debbiedingell.house.gov](http://debbiedingell.house.gov)

### U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow .....(202) 224-4822  
[stabenow.senate.gov](http://stabenow.senate.gov)

Gary Peters ..... (202) 224-6221  
[peters.senate.gov](http://peters.senate.gov)

### President of the United States

Joe Biden.....(202) 456-1111  
[whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)

## THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

Is published quarterly by the Scio Township Board of Trustees for the residents of Scio Township.

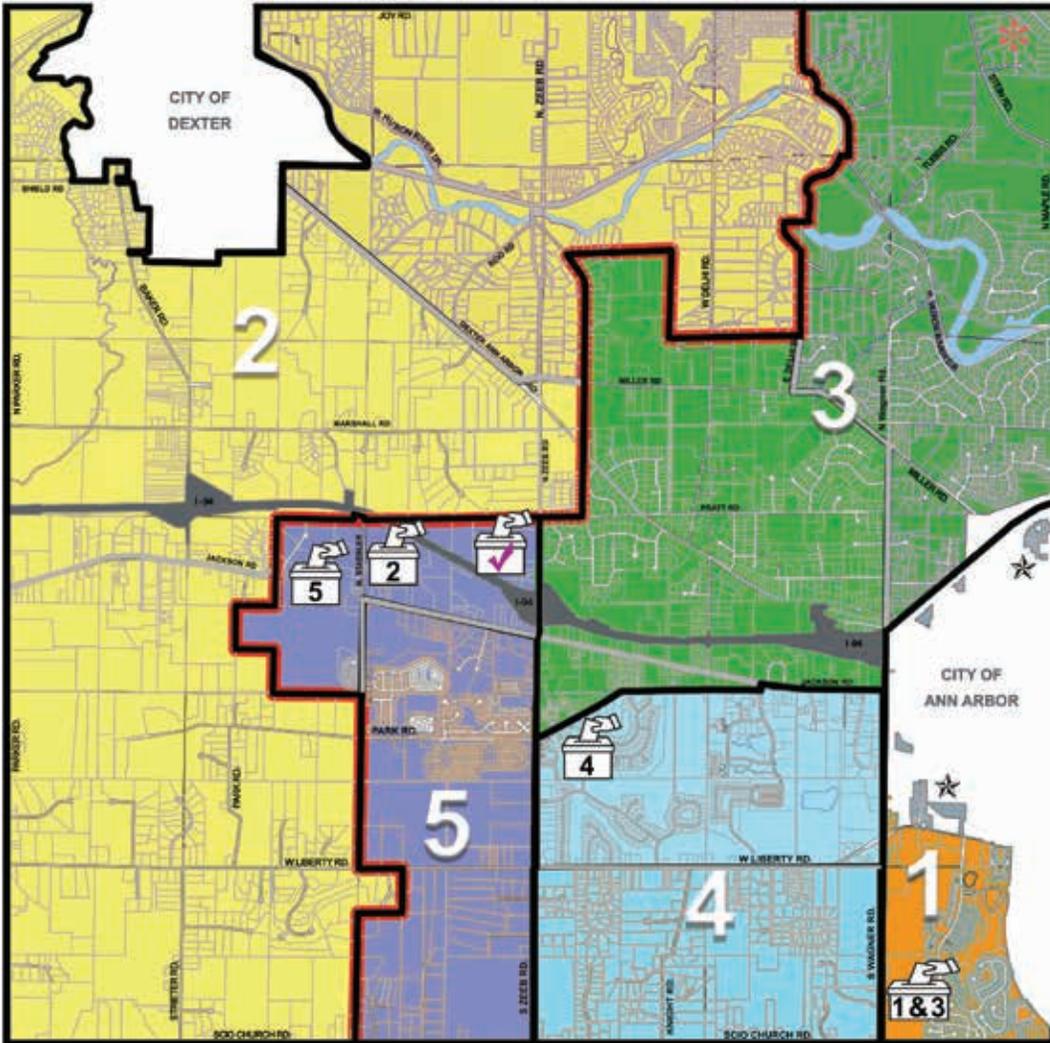
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Scio Township Hall  
 827 North Zeeb Road  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103

## To Scio Neighbor

# SCIO PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES



-  **PRECINCTS 1 & 3**  
 Washtenaw Inter. School District  
 1819 South Wagner Road
-  **PRECINCT 2**  
 Kiwanis Club  
 100 North Staebler Road
-  **PRECINCT 4**  
 Polo Fields Main Club House  
 5200 Polo Fields Drive
-  **PRECINCT 5**  
 Scio Farms Community Club House  
 6655 Jackson Road

-  **EARLY VOTING**  
 Scio Township Hall  
 827 North Zeeb Road  
 OR  
 Washtenaw County LRC  
 4135 Washtenaw Avenue

-  Polling Place
-  Precinct Boundaries
-  School District Boundary

Early Voting: Saturday July 27 - Sunday August 4, 2024, 9 am. - 5 pm.

Election Day Voting: Tuesday August 6, 2024, 7 am. - 8 pm

Absentee Ballots due to Clerk's Office by 8 pm. on Election Day, August 6, 2024

Map approved November 2023