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REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings are held in Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Rd, unless otherwise indicated.

Board of Trustees meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

Downtown Development Authority meets on the second Monday of every other month at noon.

Environmental Sustainability Task Force meets on the first Thursday of every month, online only.

Land Preservation Commission meets on the second Thursday of every month at 4 pm.

Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 4 pm.

Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 pm.

Roads Advisory Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals meets monthly; check the schedule at sciotownship.org/ZBA.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

BY JILLIAN KERRY, SUPERVISOR

I am honored to have been chosen by the voters of Scio Township to help your local government meet the needs of residents and local businesses over the next four years. The new Board of Trustees sports both new and old (familiar!) faces, and **I believe that I speak for all seven of us when I say we intend to work collaboratively and respectfully with each other and the public.** There will be disagreements between us, that is inevitable. But taking an approach that is open to the fruitfulness of different viewpoints working together--I expect great things! I believe every obstacle contains an opportunity for learning and improvement.

Looking around Township Hall, I see lots of positive changes since the new Board took office on November 20, 2024. There is a new excitement, and a new energy everywhere I look. From the enhanced beauty of the newly restored water tower to the enhanced security of updated generators at Township Hall and the Jackson Road pump station, our Utilities Department is contributing to the quality of life in Scio. With the passage of the Fire Protection millage last November, Fire Chief Houde is moving forward with plans to build a second fire station in support of our growing community. And Parks Director Murphy Harrington and her volunteers are opening up Scio's parks and

preserves to community members in a way we have always wished, with programming for all ages, and volunteer opportunities that invite everyone to come and enjoy the fruits of 20 years of conserving Township land. These are only a few of the many ways both staff and elected officials are working for you. It's a great time to live, visit, and work in Scio Township. Let us know what you think at townshipboard@sciotownship.org or call the office at 734-369-9400.

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL

827 N Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor
(734) 369-9400
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm
sciotownship.org

OFFICERS

Supervisor Jillian Kerry
jkerry@sciotownship.org
Clerk Jessica Flintoft
jflintoft@sciotownship.org
Treasurer Ryan Yapple
ryapple@sciotownship.org
Trustee Kathleen Brant
kbrant@sciotownship.org
Trustee Kathleen Knol
kknol@sciotownship.org
Trustee Judy DeVooght Moenck
jmoenck@sciotownship.org
Trustee John Reiser
jreiser@sciotownship.org
Office Coordinator Kristy Aiken
kaiken@sciotownship.org

STAFF DIRECTORY



FIRE STATION

1055 N Zeeb Rd
Business line (734) 665-6001
Emergencies 911
sciotownship.org/fire
Fire Chief Andrew Houde
ahoude@sciotownship.org
Fire Marshal Brandon Sears
bsears@sciotownship.org

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

827 N Zeeb Rd
Billing.....(734) 369-9351
After-hours emergency... (734) 651-4770

Director Brandon McNiel
bmcniel@sciotownship.org
sciotownship.org/utilities

Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority
Billing.....(248) 433-8904
Water/Sewer emergency..... (248) 433-8904
<https://lasawater.org>

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Director Murphy Harrington
mharrington@sciotownship.org
Project Manager Chris Cheng
ccheng@sciotownship.org

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Assessor Andrea Garrett
algarrett@sciotownship.org

CLERK'S COLUMN

Since I took office in 2019, the Township has achieved the implementation of a regular budget preparation and monitoring process, a capital planning process, and a more disciplined procurement process. We have hired a new auditor, and implemented several key policies to guide Township decision-making I am relieved that voters elected a Board majority last November that is committed to the responsible fiscal management of public funds. **In partnership with newly elected Treasurer Ryan Yapple, we are refining and updating**

a range of core financial policies to ensure the Township is proactively preventing fraud, waste, and abuse at every step of our operations. For example, in December the Board adopted a cash receipting policy so that the necessary checks and balances are in place. We will continue to roll out policies to bring our Township into alignment with all accounting standards and best practices. We are currently reviewing the need for an in-depth administrative audit of our accounting records to identify errors that need correction. In the

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

coming year, we plan to publish more detailed versions of the existing budgets and financial reports through a digital records initiative. This will enable the public to readily review how the Township is appropriating and spending public funds. These reports will be easy to read, easy to understand, and meaningful. All of the Township's budget, treasury, and financial policies and reports are available online at sciotownship.org/finance.

"It is of supreme importance that we recognize the thousands of election administrators who fought over the last few weeks, months, and years to make this election safe and fair. They are the heroes of democracy."

Tova Wang, Director of Research Projects in Democratic Practice, Harvard University

THANK YOU ELECTION WORKERS!

The November election was the last of three important elections held in 2024. More voters than ever before took advantage of the opportunity to vote early during the 9 days immediately preceding the election. In November, 2,983 Scio voters came out to vote early, compared to 532 in February. Absentee voting remained the most popular option, however, with 6,953 absentee ballots arriving in time to be counted. And a further 2,226 voted in person on election day, with the polling station at Scio Farms (Precinct 5) seeing the most action, with over 700 voters

on Election Day. **The overall turn-out for Scio Township voters was nearly 78 % of registered voters.** This compares favorably to turnout county-wide, which was 66 %.

We couldn't run a single election without our election workers, both in the polling places and in the Clerk's Office. These dedicated citizens play a crucial role in ensuring that the democratic process runs smoothly, and their work is invaluable. Thank you to the 100-plus election workers who staffed Scio's precincts and absent voter counting boards, for your tireless service during the long hours on

BY BARBARA CALLEJA, DEPUTY CLERK

Election Day. The Clerk's Office would like to extend a special thank-you to our five dedicated Clerk's assistants who worked here in Township Hall registering voters, issuing and receiving absentee ballots, and helping voters throughout the weeks leading up to election day: Mary Sherrill, Sherry Sabbagh, Lesli Daniel, Ashley Houde, and Nutan Nathwani. Your work is essential and deeply appreciated!



LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

SAFETY TIP

As we settle into winter and our furnaces are running for the season, residents are encouraged to take a few minutes to check their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to make sure they are working. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is a byproduct of combustion of natural gas, propane, and other fuels. CO is dangerous and can be fatal if allowed to accumulate in an enclosed space such as the home.

Normally the exhaust piping of your furnace safely vents the CO outside the home. A functioning CO alarm in the home will notify you if there is a problem with this system. Your CO alarm should be battery powered (or have a battery backup if powered by household electricity) and be no more than 10 years old.

CO alarms should be placed near sleeping areas and on each level of the home for best protection.

If your CO alarm sounds, have everyone exit the home and call 911 to report the incident. Your fire department has equipment that can detect even low levels of CO in a home and help find the source. We often find a failure of the furnace venting system or a failure of the furnace's heat exchanger to be the cause.

FIRE STATION UPDATE

This fall voters authorized increased funding through the Fire Protection Millage to construct and staff a second fire station. The project is now in its beginning phase. This winter, we will bid and select an architect and a construction manager who will work together to modify the preliminary plan developed in 2023 and produce construction plans. These hires should be completed soon. We expect to have construction documents prepared, and the job bid out to construction firms by late spring or early summer. We anticipate groundbreaking late this summer or early this coming fall.

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Construction is estimated at about 1 year from groundbreaking to opening the building. **The Scio Township Fire Department thanks the voters for this tremendous show of support.** With a second fire station located in a high-demand area, the Scio Township Fire Department looks forward to providing faster and more complete service to your first-responder emergencies.

KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR

Once winter weather arrives, residents can play an important part in assisting emergency responders. If able, residents are asked to help keep fire hydrants adjacent to their property or in their neighborhoods free from snow and ice. Leaving a 3-foot clearing around hydrants can provide easy access to firefighters in the event of fire. Thank you in advance!

TREASURER'S REPORT

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW TOWNSHIP TREASURER!

The office of the treasurer has two main duties: to collect taxes and to invest the Township's money. The job of collecting taxes is not as straightforward as it may seem at first glance because the vast majority of taxes collected by the Township are disbursed to the two school districts, the county, and the many governmental entities whose services are enjoyed by our residents but provided by someone other than the Township (e.g. schools, roads, libraries, etc). In fact, the **Township claims only 8.6 % of the winter taxes collected from residents living in the Dexter School District, and only 12.53 % of the winter taxes collected by property owners living in the Ann Arbor School**

District. In fact, none of the taxes collected on the summer tax bill stay in the Township.

Investing Township monies is strictly governed by Public Act 2 (MCL Act 2 of 1968), which determines what kind of investments public monies may legally be invested in. These are generally termed "commercial paper," which is bonds offered by banks, but certificates of deposit and money market accounts are also appropriate. We will be reviewing each investment and ensuring that it earns a competitive interest rate.

In taking over the duties of township treasurer, I am grateful to have the help of longtime Township staff as well Joel Foster, my deputy, who comes to Scio from Ypsilanti Township, where he worked for four years in their treasury department. Joel's specialty is customer service,

BY RYAN YAPLE, TOWNSHIP TREASURER

and he is particularly good at working with residents and resolving any questions on their tax bills.

My first goal as the new treasurer is to make paying taxes easier and more convenient for our taxpayers. **An electronic payment method will be in place in time for the summer tax season.** For now, cash or check are accepted by mail or in person at Township Hall. Credit card payments can be made in person or online at sciotownship.org/pay (with a 3% service charge). Winter taxes are due no later than February 14. Late payments accrue a 3% penalty and are acceptable only through February 28. Starting March 1, township taxes must be paid through the County Treasurer's office, located at 200 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor.

FROM THE UTILITIES DIRECTOR

The Scio Township Utilities Department accomplished a lot in 2024. Most visible is the work on the water tower, which brought our striking Township logo to the skies over the west side of the Township. More importantly, **the tower itself was brought into compliance with new EGLE standards, ensuring our ability to continue to provide adequate water pressure to the west side of the Township.** Another notable accomplishment on the water side of the Utilities Department is the success of the first phase of our water meter replacement program. As of today, we are ahead of schedule, with more than 800 new meters installed. The new meters eliminate the manual labor of collecting data on water usage, which saves labor costs, and have contributed to a great reduction in

the number of billing issues experienced by customers whose old meters had failed. The new meters also give water customers more control over their spending on water, as they offer the opportunity to observe water usage at all times, making it simple to detect leaks before they become costly. Meter replacement under 2 inches is free to residents and businesses. Call 734-369-9351 to schedule your meter replacement. Reports are updated weekly from the new meters for leak detection or abnormally high usage at sciotownship.org/leak.

On the sewer side of our utilities work, we successfully caught up with the annual cleaning of problem areas and completed the first phase of a 5-year plan to get all the sewer lines in the district cleaned and filmed (we call this TV work). That work will continue this

BY BRANDON McNIEL,
DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES

month in the Uplands area until budgeted funds are expended. **This important, but expensive, work ensures that the system is properly maintained, and our customers can use their facilities with confidence.** We hope to complete the remainder of the Uplands sewer lines later in 2025.

As we in the Utilities Department look forward to a successful 2025, our number 1 priority is to continue to reduce the number of billing issues experienced by our customers and provide excellent service. For billing questions, call 734-369-9351, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm. For any other water or sewer issues, email me at bmcniel@sciotownship.org.

READY FOR WINTER AT WCRC

HAPPY NEW YEAR—WINTER IS OFFICIALLY HERE!

The snowplows are on standby, ready to face whatever Mother Nature sends our way. Our team of drivers has undergone extensive training to ensure roads remain passable (if not perfect). Your cooperation helps our crews clear roads more efficiently. Here's how you can help during winter weather events:

- Park vehicles in the driveway, not on the road.
- Keep children and pets safely away from moving snowplows.
- Pile shoveled snow in grassy areas, not in the road.

STAY BACK 200 FEET!

WCRC wants to remind all drivers of the new "Stay Back 200 Feet" law in Michigan. This requires motorists to maintain a minimum of 200 feet behind active snowplows while they are doing their vital work. Please keep this in mind for your safety and the safety of our plow operators.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: PARK RD & STAEBLER RD.

WCRC has suspended construction at the intersection of Park Rd and Staebler Rd in Scio Township due to a utility conflict. The intersection will remain closed throughout the winter, with construction resuming this spring. Access will be maintained for residents within the closure limits. For detour information, please

BY TIFFANY OLIPHANT, ROAD COMMISSION

refer to the following link: <https://bit.ly/3BciGlz>

Remember, if you have a road concern or question, there are multiple ways to report it to WCRC:

- Visit online: wcrc.org/residents/report-an-issue
- Sign up for project updates: wcrc.org/residents/subscribe-to-road-updates
- Download the WCRC Fix It App
- Email wcrc@wcrc.org
- Call the WCRC office: (734) 761-1500, Monday – Friday, 7 am – 3:30 pm



INTRODUCING YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2024-2028

KATHLEEN BRANT, TRUSTEE



"We can do better." I chose this as the slogan for my campaign for Trustee of Scio Township after attending 3 years of Township meetings, and serving as a member of the Compensation Commission. We can surely do better than this, I often thought during those meetings. And then my neighbor and many others convinced me to try to help make "better" happen. **As a Trustee, my first goal will be to find cost savings. Based on the size of our Township, I think it's time to stop paying so much for consultants and to bring those services in-house.** I'm also very concerned about financial management in our local government. I have a career background in Purchasing and am good with "the numbers." I have joined the Planning Commission to be actively involved in how our Township is developed. I need to hear from Scio residents on how and where this development should happen. My gut tells me to keep Scio's rural nature and to focus development centrally. I hope to "better" engage with the people of Scio Township. I will start by offering office hours for residents to come speak to me before Board meetings, on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Send me an email at kbrant@sciotownship.org to let me know you're coming.

JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK



Thank you for re-electing me to serve as your Township Clerk. Since 2019, I have been privileged to hold the demanding job of Clerk: being at once responsible for financial accounting, election administration, and records management, as well as serving as a member of the Board of Trustees. I have implemented good governance reforms to strengthen the internal controls over public monies, facilitate

voter access to the ballot, and protect the integrity of public records. I look forward to working with the newly elected Board majority to further professionalize and improve our varied Township operations, and to make our local democracy more inclusive. **With strong checks and balances, we can properly protect our elections, public records, and public funds.** By following the law and implementing evidence-based practices, we can develop Scio Township into a model of local governance.



JILLIAN KERRY, SUPERVISOR

It has been many years since I became involved in Scio Township government. I diligently attended Board, commission, and committee meetings, took many classes, and advocated for residents and Township staff alike. This path led me to run for Supervisor in 2020. **I was elected to the position of Trustee in 2022 and now find myself the first woman elected as Supervisor in the Township's 200-year history.** My goals for these four years are to collaboratively and respectfully work with those elected to office with me; to rebuild trust between the Board and our residents and staff; to ensure compliance with statutes, ordinances, and policies; and to embrace my statutory duties. Overall, I intend to serve Scio Township to the best of my ability so I may help create a better community for residents. I feel honored by those who voted for me to serve in this important role.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

KATHY KNOL, TRUSTEE



I bring 12 years of elected Township Board experience to my role as trustee and I plan to use the knowledge and experience I have gleaned to support this new Board. I look forward to working with these enthusiastic and dedicated individuals over the next four years. During that time, I plan to continue my years' long work toward a meaningful cleanup of the Gelman dioxane plume and see it through listing as a Superfund site. I support ongoing land preservation efforts, and protection of the semi-rural character of Scio Township. Through my involvement with the Jackson Road Advisory Group, I have helped facilitate a dialogue about planning for the future of the Jackson Road corridor. I am an active participant in Board discussions about planning goals, capital improvements, and establishing priorities. I will continue to respond to resident questions and concerns. I believe in transparency in township government and encourage public involvement at all levels of government.



JUDY DEVOOGHT MOENCK, TRUSTEE



Fundamentally, the public elects local leaders to solve current problems and plan for a secure future by making informed decisions. Constituents

rely on their elected officials to develop and maintain infrastructure, spend tax dollars prudently, and keep the public safe. For the Scio Board of Trustees to deliver what voters elected us to do, we must *come together* to serve and to solve with the best interests of the public as the overarching goal. **That is my priority: to come together with colleagues to serve with integrity and professionalism.** This requires engagement, commitment, time, and willingness to listen to our residents, business owners, and staff. I pledge to exceed those requirements. I look forward to working with members of the board and trust that our mutual respect will facilitate productive discourse, boost the public's confidence in the Board, and put the Township's recent past behind us. In addition, I am delighted to have been appointed as the Board's representative on the PPP and LPC. The volunteers on these commissions are awesome and the taxpayers' willingness to support millages to pay for parks, pathways, preserves, and open land is more than I could ask as a resident. I invite you to join me on this four-year journey as I work on your behalf. I am SCIO PROUD. Want to share your interests/ideas? Let's meet for coffee. jmoenck@sciotownship.org.

JOHN REISER, TRUSTEE



I was appointed as a trustee in late-2022 and recently elected to serve a 4-year term. I look forward to working collaboratively with all

my fellow officers, each of whom brings stellar qualifications and a needed skillset to the board. I want to continue Scio's tradition of preserving open space, to help get the new fire station up and running, and to promote commercial and residential development in Scio's water and sewer district. **Our parks and preserves are one of Scio's gems and I support more trails and programming, including the nature playscape, improved pathway, and amenities in Township Hall Park.** I look forward to the day when Staebler and Park Roads are paved, and non-motorized pathways allow the hundreds of residents in that area to walk and bike to the businesses on Zeeb and Jackson Roads. Scio's balance of rural and urban life is something we can all be proud of!

RYAN YAPLE, TREASURER



I look forward to serving as your Township Treasurer. I am focused on optimizing ways for the Township to serve our residents

more efficiently. Currently, I am analyzing the number of bank accounts that we utilize for the Township's funds. In addition to tax collection, the treasurer is responsible for investing the Township's funds. **I plan on reviewing the Township's investments to see that we are receiving a reasonable rate of return on each.** The Township can only invest into specific assets as dictated by law. We participate with several banks as well as Michigan CLASS, a government investment pool. Further, I am focused on bringing technology into the Treasury Department. I am exploring the possibility of using remote deposit capture (RDC), the same technology used at your bank branch, to increase processing capacity for checks. I also will be reviewing our options for automatic payment for utility bills and taxes. Feel free to stop in at Township Hall or call the office with any questions.



County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum swears in the 2024-28 Board of Trustees on November 20, 2024

SCIO PARKS, PRESERVES, AND PATHWAYS

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PARKS

Parks work doesn't stop in the winter. Over these cold winter months we are continuing to plan for the new Township Hall park, including a playground area and a public restroom, as well as creating outdoor opportunities that can be enjoyed right now. We have truly outdone ourselves for this next round of Parks, Preserves, and Pathways programming. Throughout 2025, we will offer new opportunities to get involved in a way that

is just right for you. From wildlife monitoring to natural areas management, all the way to attending programs and learning something new, there is something for almost everyone. **Please be sure to attend our Volunteer Mixer on February 12 at 7 pm at Township Hall!** All are welcome and refreshments will be provided. This event is for prospective and seasoned volunteers, or if you just want to stop by and learn what's going on in your Scio Parks and Preserves. We look forward to seeing you there! Here is a list of upcoming events. Visit sciotownship.org/sciooutside for more details on these and future events.

BY MURPHY HARRINGTON
PARKS DIRECTOR

January 1 – Fanny Freeze (presented by the Scio Flyers Radio-Controlled Airplane Club)

January 10 – Cold-Blooded Classification (presented by Leslie Science and Nature Center)

January 24 – Owl Prowl

February 12 – Volunteer Mixer

March 15 – Natural Areas Management with Volunteers

March 26 – Frog Call Monitoring Training



Looking for nighttime visitors to the West Scio Preserve at the November 15 Owl Prowl event. Join us on January 24!

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT IN MICHIGAN?

Call (734) 239-6863, press 1 (Monday through Thursday).
Visit Michigan Immigrant Rights Center at michiganimmigrant.org to learn more.

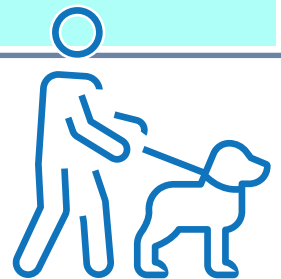
OAK WILT

It's winter (as if you hadn't noticed) and that means it's safe to prune your oak trees. Oak trees are vulnerable to a deadly disease called "oak wilt" if pruned (or wounded) during the spring-summer months. For more information and helpful resources, visit MichiganOakWilt.org.



DOG OWNERS!

Scio Township Ordinance 22.22 requires pet owners to ALWAYS keep their dogs on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length in areas where dogs are permitted. Please review signage at the entrance to Scio parks and preserves with regard to animals, and obey the leash ordinance for the safety of all. And ALWAYS pick up after your pet. Thank you!



CHECK OUT [READY.GOV](https://www.ready.gov)

for all your emergency-related information needs. Their lead article "Why you should be winter ready" provides useful tips on staying safe during the cold months.

SUSTAINABLE RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025

Here are some actionable suggestions from the working groups of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force.

Find more resources on each of the following topics at sciotownship.org/ESTF. Join us! We meet virtually on the first Thursday of every month. Agendas and meeting links are available at sciotownship.org.

ENERGY, BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP—SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV)

You are invited to THE SUN IS SHINING IN SCIO event, on Sunday, February 23, at 4 pm, Homeland Solar Headquarters, 303 Metty Drive (off Jackson Road). Learn about how solar and batteries work on sunny days, cloudy days, and even the snowiest days of Michigan weather. Identify the simple steps to determine whether solar will work for you. Learn about the process, start to finish, for installing solar PV and battery storage for your home, business, or farm. Understand how the federal tax credits of 30% make renewable energy more affordable. Talk with others who have already taken the leap into solar. Enjoy a hot chocolate bar and put some sunshine into February! RSVP for in-person attendance to pcchair@sciotownship.org or find the zoom link at sciotownship.org/ESTF to attend virtually.

MATERIALS, WASTE & THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WORKING GROUP – START COMPOSTING

More than 100 Scio residents responded to the Food Waste Composting Survey, with over 90% expressing interest in participating in a composting pilot. We have mapped those interested and are determining possible drop-off locations. Look for a proposal coming before the Board of Trustees to start a composting pilot project in Scio during the first quarter of 2025. Learn more about composting at washtenawcd.org/composting.

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY WORKING GROUP—REDUCE YOUR VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

Nationally, about 28% of carbon emissions are due to transportation, with nearly 60% of that caused by cars and light trucks. In 2025, our goal is to increase transit ridership in Scio Township on both AAATA routes and through the WAVE (Western Washtenaw Area Value Express) system. Consider trying out the bus on your next trip into Ann Arbor or Dexter. Does your bike need repair? Common Cycle Community Bicycle Repair is a nonprofit organization in Ann Arbor where you can use their workspace to tune up or repair your bicycle. They have the tools and knowledgeable volunteers who can help you and teach you how to take care of your bike yourself. Check out their schedule at commoncycle.org.

BY MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION & HEALTH WORKING GROUP—MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Pump your tank and inspect your field in 2025 if you have not done so in the last 3-5 years. Septic system maintenance is not complicated, and it does not need to be expensive. Get the how-to's from the EPA at epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system.

NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS WORKING GROUP — CONVERT TURF INTO A NATIVE LANDSCAPE

Native plants are adapted to Michigan's soils and climate and provide food and habitat for our native animals. Since these plants are well-adapted to our local growing conditions, they require little or no special treatment after establishment. That means you save time, money, water, and sweat, so you can sit back and enjoy your landscape. Plan your native or rain garden now, with help from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Office. Find out more at washtenaw.org/raingardens.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE - SEEK OUT LOCAL FOODS AND EAT HEALTHIER

Local food tastes better because it's picked when it's ripe and doesn't have to travel long distances. It produces less waste because it doesn't require as much packaging or travel. It also reduces the use of harmful chemicals and toxins that pollute the air and water. Supporting local food businesses helps strengthen the local economy. And buying local food from farmers gives you more transparency into how the food is produced. Find a local farm or join a Community Supported Agriculture farm at washtenawmarkets.org/CSA.



Volunteers and residents share information at a successful Sustainability Fair in fall, 2024

FROM THE SCIO TOWNSHIP ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

The Annual Inflation Rate (commonly known as the CPI, or Consumer Price Index) is used to calculate the Taxable Value of real property. **A CPI of 3.1% has been calculated for 2025 by the State Tax Commission.** Per Proposal A, adopted by voters on March 15, 1994, the CPI cannot be higher than 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. We have posted a copy of that bulletin at sciotownship.org/assessingreports.

If you would like to get an idea of the 2025 taxable value of your property, multiply your 2024 taxable value by 1.031%. The resultant figure will be what your 2025 property taxes will be based on. Please note that if you recently purchased your home, built a deck, finished your basement, etc., or demolished a structure

on your property, your taxable value will be calculated to include the resulting increase or decrease in value. Contact the Assessing Department if you would like information on how that calculation was performed.

Your annual 2025 assessment notice will be mailed mid-February. **The March Board of Review is the annual opportunity to appeal the 2025 Assessed Value.** Per MCL 211.30, the Board of Review must meet on the second Monday in March. The dates for the 2025 March Board of Review are tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11. Please consult your assessment notice for the exact dates and times. Should you wish to appeal the 2025 assessed value, please contact our office to schedule an appointment.

BY ANDREA L. GARRETT,
TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

In addition to Assessed Values, the Board of Review considers Poverty Exemptions. Should you wish to apply for the 2025 exemption, please contact our office and we will get the proper application and supporting paperwork to you for submission to the March Board of Review.

It is important that the Assessing Department has your correct mailing address on file. Any returned notices may not have sufficient time to be re-mailed before the Board of Review convenes. Contact the Assessing Department by phone at 734-369-9400 or via e-mail at Assessing@sciotownship.org.



RINSING AND REPEATING IS NOT JUST FOR SHAMPOOING.

RECYCLING

It is important rinse plastic, glass, and metal containers before tossing them in the recycling bin because food residue can contaminate and lower the quality of other recyclables. Find the answer to more recycling conundrums at recyclingraccoonsrg/FAQ.

REMEMBER...!

Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in good repair and free from ice, snow, and other obstructions. Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleared by 6 pm the following day; snow that accumulates during the day must be cleared by noon the following day.



**WINTER TAXES ARE DUE
FEBRUARY 14, 2025,
BY 5 PM**

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 to choose from a range of life-safety notifications, from severe weather to missing persons.

NEW 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 new Data and Information Dashboard. Check it out at Washtenaw.org/WCSODashboard.

WELCOME JOEL FOSTER!

BY MARY GILLIS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Treasurer Ryan Yaple appointed Joel Foster as his deputy shortly after taking office this fall. Joel is majoring in Business Management at Eastern Michigan University and has worked in the Treasury Department in Ypsilanti Township. He has an associate's degree in business management from Washtenaw Community College and a wealth of work experience in various capacities at EMU. It was working for Ypsi Township that gave Joel the opportunity to discover his love of customer service. **"My passion is for helping people understand their taxes and explaining the options for planning to pay their taxes,"**



he told me. While admitting that "no one likes to pay taxes," he noted that it is nevertheless an opportunity to build relationships and make someone's day better with some friendly service. Joel has a warm and friendly personality, is recently married and lives in Canton. He feels drawn to government work and likes what he has seen so far in Scio. "I'm looking forward to working as part of the team to benefit all of Scio," he said. Expect to see Joel stationed in the front office taking tax payments this winter and be sure to make him feel welcome!

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, 2024, deadline for the October 1 to October 31, 2024, 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 10, 2024, and five samples on October 23, 2024, but failed to report all the results until December 2, 2024. We are making efforts to ensure this does not happen again. We have already returned to compliance.

For more information, please contact Brandon McKel Bmckel@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.



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

Postmaster: leave with current resident

To Scio Neighbor

ARE YOU TOO COLD IN YOUR HOME?

*Apply for FREE home weatherization
in Washtenaw County!*



Apply today at bit.ly/wx-app or call
(734) 544-3008!

Homeowners and renters can apply!



Benefits of Weatherization

- Comfort
- Lower Utility Bills
- Energy Savings
- Improved Health and Safety

***Income must be at or below 80% area median
income (AMI) to qualify:***

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Income Limit 80% AMI	\$66,300	\$75,750	\$85,200	\$94,650	\$102,250	\$109,800



*Check out our YouTube to get a
behind-the-scenes look!*



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Collaborative solutions for a promising future

(734) 544-3008
415 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti
washtenaw.org/weatherization