



SUMMER 2025

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Brett Bourne, Fire Captain, 12 years
Barbara Calleja, Deputy Clerk, 1 year
Skip Davis, Fire Investigator, 6 years

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk, 6 years
Brent Newsom, Firefighter, 1 year
Brandon Sears, Fire Marshal, 2 years
Andrew Sikma, on-call Firefighter,
7 years

Terry Soave, Fire Administrative
Assistant, 2 years
Robert Stelzer III, Fire Lieutenant,
9 years

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

I hope this message finds you well. As your Township Supervisor, I want to take a moment to update you on several initiatives and ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening our community.

PRIORITY WASTE SERVICE

I understand that many residents have experienced ongoing challenges with trash and recycling services. Please know that addressing these concerns is a top priority for me and the Township Board. We have received numerous complaints and are actively exploring better options to meet the needs of our community. I am working closely with Board members to evaluate all available solutions and ensure more reliable service moving forward. If you are currently experiencing service issues, please don't hesitate to report them. You can fill out the complaint form at sciotownship.org/waste or call Township Hall at 734-369-9400. We will immediately follow up with Priority Waste on your behalf.

2025 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

As Chair of the Roads Advisory Committee (RAC), I'm pleased to report that our members have recommended a comprehensive list of roads for improvement this year using budgeted funds from

the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). With the approval of the Township Board, the Washtenaw County Road Commission has already begun work on these critical upgrades. Investing in our roads is essential to maintain safe, reliable transportation. For more details, please read the RAC article in this newsletter (p. 7).

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

In my role as DDA CEO, I've been working closely with its members to strengthen internal processes and ensure full compliance with statutes and bylaws. Transparency, accountability, and collaboration are central to our work. The DDA is now focused on developing capital improvement plans and refining our budget to support responsible economic development that benefits the entire Township. For more information, please read the DDA article in this issue (p. 7).

LOCH ALPINE SANITARY AUTHORITY (LASA)

As Chair of LASA, I am working with members from both Scio and Webster Townships to strengthen our shared water and sewer services. Our focus includes improving communication, streamlining operations, and

BY JILLIAN KERRY, SUPERVISOR

enhancing service responsiveness.

SUPERVISOR AVAILABILITY

Please note that at the March 11, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, the salary determination proposed for the position of Supervisor by the Compensation Commission was rejected by a 5-2 vote of the Board. The resulting salary of \$44,000 is one that I feel more accurately reflects a part-time job rather than the full-time effort I put in doing the work of this Township. Despite this unfavorable circumstance, I remain committed to being accessible and responsive to both public and staff. You can contact me Monday through Friday during regular business hours at 734-369-9406 or email me at JKerry@sciotownshipmi.gov. I will gladly respond as soon as I am available.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES are available free to residents at Township Hall, 827 N Zeeb Road, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. Call ahead to confirm, 734-369-9400. Must show photo identification.

SCIO TOWNSHIP TRANSITIONS TO .GOV DOMAIN

Scio Township is proud to announce an important update to how our residents and partners connect with us online. In line with a nationwide effort to improve digital trust and government transparency, Scio is transitioning its official website and email addresses from a .org domain to the federally recognized .gov domain.

WHAT'S CHANGING AND WHY IT MATTERS

Within the next three months, our website will change from sciotownship.org to sciotownshipmi.gov. The .gov domain is reserved exclusively for U.S. government

entities, assuring the public that the site is legitimate and secure. With this change, residents can be confident that the information they access is from an official and verified source. In addition to reinforcing public trust, .gov domains meet higher federal cybersecurity standards, including improved protection against phishing attacks and mandatory encryption of all communications via HTTPS.

CONTINUITY AND SUPPORT DURING THE TRANSITION

All Township services, forms, and information accessed via the Township website will remain available throughout this transition, as

BY JULIO BARROS, IT SPECIALIST

visitors who use our old .org domain will be automatically redirected to the new .gov site indefinitely. Township staff email addresses are also transitioning to the .gov domain. All messages sent to @sciotownship.org addresses will be redirected to @sciotownshipmi.gov addresses.

Editor's note: The website addresses found in this edition of the newsletter indicate the "old" .org address as we wait for the .gov domain to become fully functional.

CLERK'S COLUMN

It's audit season at Township Hall. Our auditors, accounting firm Rehmann, were on site in June as part of their annual audit activities. By law, Scio Township must hire a CPA to conduct an audit of the Township's accounting records and issue a statement of opinion on the Township's financial statements. The process is rigorous, and each year the auditor provides recommendations for improvements to our processes, internal controls, and policy updates. In some years, we have received findings of material weaknesses that must be corrected. Over the past year, we have reduced the number of these findings, as we implement more standard operating procedures, and better internal controls. **I expect that Rehmann will present their audit findings at the August 12 Board of Trustees meeting.**

Steadily, we are improving the Township's financial processes, including in the area of capital asset management. Recently, the Board

adopted a Capital Assets and Controlled Assets Disposal Policy. This policy provides guidance to Township staff on how to dispose of equipment that no longer has use by the Township. The policy emphasizes environmentally responsible options such as reselling or recycling, while ensuring the Township is compensated fairly. To read all our policies, visit sciotownship.org/policies.

I'm pleased to share that Scio Township is actively seeking a Finance Director, who will supervise the multifaceted work of our two finance team members. For a complete job description and a link to the application, visit sciotownship.org/employment.

By this fall, I expect the Board will consider financing for the construction of the second fire station through the purchase of bonds. Made possible by voters' support for increased fire prevention and response (on the ballot in 2024), the 2.7 mill levy will allow the Township to bond for the construction of the second station at

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

900 S. Wagner, while planning for expanded operations over the coming years.

While we are expanding fire services to a second station, Township Hall continues to meet the needs of all other operations for the foreseeable future. Under the leadership of Office Coordinator Kristy Aiken, **the front office has been reconfigured to provide more responsive service to residents who come in.** We have optimized the space to seat more of the staff who interact directly with residents. And this fall we plan to replace the obsolete HVAC system with a new system that will improve indoor air quality, reduce carbon emissions, and allow Township Hall to continue to be the welcoming public building it is today.

Please reach out at any time with suggestions for me, questions, or comments about your Township government, jflintoft@sciotownshipmi.gov, or 734-369-9400.

SCIO TOWNSHIP EARNS GOLD!

Scio Township was recognized for its 2024 environmental leadership by the statewide Michigan Green Communities (MGC) program.

As part of the annual Michigan Green Communities Challenge, local governments are awarded bronze, silver, gold, or platinum seals of achievement. **These achievements demonstrate community leadership in various areas**, including energy efficiency, climate resilience, recycling, mobility, environmental stewardship, and more.

The MGC Challenge had a record number of participants this year, with 68 communities being recognized for their efforts. Last year, Scio was awarded silver status for its 2023 efforts. This year we went GOLD in recognition of the following key accomplishments: benchmarking

the energy use in our buildings, installing native plantings at Township Hall and the Zeeb Road Fire Station, improving public transportation by increasing route frequency for both the WAVE and AAATA buses, investigating food waste composting options, updating zoning ordinances (ongoing), continuing to update resources on the website, and hosting a second annual sustainability fair.

As a result of achieving silver in the MGC Challenge for 2023, Scio was awarded a Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellow, who will continue through the summer of 2025, working on a Sustainability Curriculum for Township officials and staff. The curriculum will become part of the orientation process to enable officials and staff



BY JAN CULBERTSON,
PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

to implement sustainability in their daily work and decision-making. A portion of the project will be on-line for the public too. Look for it this August!

The Township's environmental efforts are led by the Environmental Sustainability Task Force (ESTF), an offshoot of the Planning Commission.

Find a wealth of helpful resources to improve your personal environmental footprint by visiting us at sciotownship.org/sustainability. ESTF welcomes new members on an ongoing basis. Contact Jan Culbertson, jculbertson@sciotownshipmi.gov if you are interested in helping Scio meet our climate action goals.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

BY ANDREW HOUDE, FIRE CHIEF

The Fire Station 2 project is moving along quickly. As of early June, a floor plan has been created, a preliminary site plan is being prepared for submission to the Planning Commission, and meetings have taken place with the mechanical engineer to discuss geothermal heating and cooling for the new building. We anticipate that the project will come before the Planning Commission in July and move to the Board of Trustees in August for approvals.

In early work on the project, we reduced the size and scope of the building by around 2,000 square feet in order to lower the cost, but as plans have evolved we found we needed to add back around 1,000 square feet to accommodate a mechanical room for the HVAC system. Fire Station 2 is being designed for sustainability as well as functionality, which reduces the costs

of running the second station over the life of the building. To meet both those goals, **we are relying on locally-sourced materials and local contractors, geothermal to heat and cool the building, and solar to power it as much as possible.**

The Fire Department is looking forward to the completion of Fire Station 2 to better serve the community. We anticipate breaking ground this fall and the completion of construction within 12 to 16 months.

LIFESAVING AWARD

On May 4, we recognized Shift 2, including Captain Brian Koch, Firefighters Mike Simpson and Brent Newsom, and Lieutenant Glen Cobb, for their swift life-saving action on a cardiac arrest. On February 9, 2025, Shift 2 responded to an incident on Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., where a vehicle had crashed into a building. Upon

arrival, they assessed the scene, determining the driver had suffered a cardiac arrest leading to the crash. They began immediate treatment of the patient, Ron Abbott, who regained a pulse on-scene, was transported to an emergency facility, and has since made a full recovery.

Rarely do firefighters get to meet, or even learn the outcome of, the people they treat on-scene. But, on April 4, Ron and his wife Lisa visited the station to meet and thank everyone involved in this incident, including 911 dispatch, Sheriff's Department, EMS, and Fire Department personnel. We are delighted to highlight the successful efforts of one shift on one day for the people of Scio Township. Get news of our daily activities on Instagram @Scio_Township_Fire_Department.

DEXTER SENIOR CENTER

BY ANNA PEKRUL,
DSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Scio Township Residents, if you've heard of Dexter Senior Center but haven't visited us yet, this summer is the perfect time to check us out. We're excited to be moving into our **new facility at 2740 Baker Road in Dexter** this month, and we can't wait to welcome you! The new space will allow us to offer more opportunities for movement, learning, creativity, and connection in a welcoming and exciting environment.

In preparation, we've been expanding our programs and trying out new activities. In July, we'll be offering:

- Lunch & Learn sessions on counseling services with Peaceful Minds; on Medicare and health insurance with Dayney Agencies; and on neck pain and treatment with Orthopedic Rehab Specialists

- A presentation on cannabis and older adults by Better My Meds
- A new Cardio Drumming class with music and movement
- A mindful movement workshop led by Mindful Dexter co-founder Doreen Murasky
- A safe driving and mobility workshop from the State of Michigan
- A book club discussion of The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
- A birthday celebration with cake, ice cream, and lunch
- Bingo hosted by Contemporary Podiatry
- A trip to a Tigers baseball game at Comerica Park
- A canvas painting class with Sheila from Canvas Creations (date TBD)

- Games including Euchre, Bridge, Pinochle, Mahjong, Bingo, and Cribbage
- Ongoing groups in dulcimer, ukulele, French study, and more

Membership is \$25 per year and open to anyone age 55 and up. You can join online at www.dexterseniors.org or in person. Whether you're interested in **meeting new people, exploring a hobby, or looking for a friendly place to spend time**, we hope you'll stop by. We're growing into something really special, and we'd love for you to be a part of it.



SHERIFF RELEASES 100-DAY REPORT

Sheriff Alyshia Dyer and the team at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office are excited to share findings of the first 100 days of the new administration via the 100-Day Report. "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our team, at every level, this initial period of our administration has been highly successful," says Sheriff Dyer, "We have made significant improvements to existing processes.

All of our work is based on our mission and values. We are implementing innovative new ideas and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community during a time when the national landscape is creating extreme uncertainty."

The 100-Day Report features observations and challenges identified in each of the Office's six divisions: Police Services, Corrections, Community Engagement, Community Corrections/Jail Services, Emergency Operations/Dispatch, Innovation/ Reentry, plus Administrative Operations.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST 100 DAYS INCLUDE:

- Updated the traffic-stop policy to prevent unnecessary traffic stops for individuals who do not pose a risk to public safety. This ends a historic practice that directly contributes to racial disparities in low-level, non-violent offenses. **During this period, we reduced traffic stops by 61% without any increase in crashes.**
- Tested an In-Person Visitation pilot program. The pilot helps reintroduce meaningful contact, keeps families connected, and paves the way for a permanent in-person visitation policy.
- Enacted widespread changes to expedite our hiring process. This resulted in more than 85 interviews, 54 conditional job offers, and 21 new members of our team.
- Conducted focus groups with people incarcerated in the jail to discuss challenges with visitation and communications, resulting

BY CRYSTAL CAMPBELL,
WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

in a 67% decrease in communication costs. This is anticipated to save people incarcerated and their families hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

- Expanded our emergency notification and alert systems, training and emergency preparedness, and incident management systems.
- Attended and facilitated dozens of community engagement events, while growing and developing programs like WELive and Peer-to-Peer.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office is comprised of over 420 staff, supported by reserves and volunteers, across six divisions. Serving a population of more than 350,000 residents in 25 unique, local units of government, the WCSO is committed to creating a safer, more just, and compassionate Washtenaw County for everyone.



SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, NOON TO 3:30 PM

THIRD ANNUAL SCIO SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

Explore electric vehicles (all kinds), composting, rain gardens, solar installation, enjoy family activities and prizes!

JACKSON ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY REPORT

Thanks to everyone who participated in the surveys, pop-ups, and the public meeting on May 28! Your input has been invaluable. The final study, available on Scio Township's website, builds on past planning to guide investment along Jackson Road with a focus on connectivity, safety, and natural streetscape elements. Read the report at sciotownship.org/jacksonroad.

What's next? OHM Advisors, the Township's consultant for this project, will present their final recommendations at the Planning Commission meeting on July 14 at 7 pm. You can join online, in person, or watch the meeting recording.

Have feedback or questions? Please email Jan Culbertson at Pcchair@sciotownshipmi.gov.

SAVE THE DATE:

**2025 HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE
AT THE ZEEB ROAD FIRE STATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1-4 PM**

Meet Scio Firefighters, climb inside firetrucks, have your face painted, play games, ride a pony, see a magic show, visit the WAVE's haunted bus, and more. Serving up light refreshments and loads of fun annually for more than 30 years!

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

BY JOEL FOSTER, DEPUTY TREASURER

The 2025 summer tax season begins on July 1. Please watch for your summer tax bill to arrive during the first two weeks of July. If you do not receive your bill, contact the Scio Township Office at 734-369-9400. Summer taxes are due by September 14; since that is a Sunday, **in-person tax payments must be made by Friday, September 12 at 4 pm.** Payment options for in-person transactions include credit card (subject to a 3.15% processing fee), check, and cash. Credit card payments and electronic

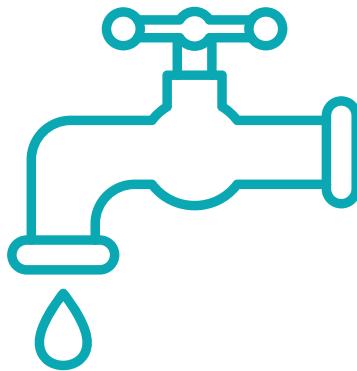
checks (subject to a flat fee of \$2.15 per transaction), are available at sciotownship.org/pay, which connects the user to the Township page of BS&A online. Simply choose "Current Tax Search" from the menu on the left then search for your address. Payments made via the drop box next to the front door at Township Hall **must be in place by 8 am on Monday September 15** in order to avoid a late fee. Please use checks only for drop-box payments. If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please don't hesitate to contact us — we're happy to help!

In other news, we have worked with our banks to review and restructure the interest rates earned on the Township's bank accounts. After deep discussion with the Bank of Ann Arbor we were able to get a rise in our interest rate to 3.7% across all Bank of Ann Arbor accounts. This new increase will allow us to stretch your tax dollars even further.



PFAS SITES IN SCIO

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, a group of chemicals often referred to by the acronym PFAS, have been in use in commercial and military applications since the 1940s, but in recent decades have come to be understood as a double-edged sword. PFAS makes waterproof clothing possible, as well as non-stick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics, and fire-fighting foams. Unfortunately, **widespread use of these chemicals has led to the discovery that they don't break down easily into non-harmful substances,** but in fact bioaccumulate (build up in our bodies and the bodies of other organisms that inadvertently consume these chemicals). State-wide warnings about fish consumption are based in part on levels of PFAS chemicals found in local fish populations.



about PFAS pollution and to provide updates on local site-monitoring. Find this presentation in the meeting records of the Board of Trustees for this date at sciotownship.org.

The first thing to know about the PFAS chemical sites found in Scio is that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is monitoring wells near both these sites. Monitoring to date has detected PFAS levels below state levels of concern at some of the wells tested; most wells tested non-detect. **Both sites are on municipal water, meaning that nearby homes and businesses are not drawing their water from**

potentially contaminated wells. Municipal water is purchased from Ann Arbor, which reports levels of PFAS chemicals detected in finished water significantly below Maximum Contaminant Levels adopted by the state in 2020. Read the latest annual Water Quality Report at sciotownship.org/waterquality. Homes and businesses outside the water district are on drinking water wells.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Negative human health outcomes associated with elevated levels of PFAS chemicals include reduced fertility, pre-eclampsia, higher cholesterol levels, thyroid disease, liver damage, decreased response to vaccines, and elevated risk of kidney and testicular cancers. If you are concerned about avoiding PFAS in your drinking water and diet:

- * Consider having your well water tested by a certified PFAS laboratory;
- * Consult the annually-updated state guidelines at Michigan.gov/eatsafefish and Michigan.gov/buysafefish;
- * Research the products you use by consulting epa.gov/saferchoice;
- * Find out more at Michigan.gov/PFASResponse.

OUR WATER QUALITY

The annual Water Quality Report was published this spring and mailed to every water customer. Additional copies are available at Township Hall and online at sciotownship.org/waterquality.

ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At its April 22, 2025 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the Roads Advisory Committee's recommendation to invest in the maintenance of the following roads: Lakeview Dr., Railroad St., East and West Pineview, Parkridge Dr., and Liberty Rd. from Stag's Leap to Parker. This year's local road maintenance was paid for with money from the American Rescue Plan Act and a Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) matching grant.

Going forward, the Township has no dedicated funding source for road infrastructure, so is paid by the General Fund. (Basic maintenance of dust control and grading will continue under WCRC.) Formerly, local road maintenance was funded by a Township-wide Special Assessment District that added \$85 to every taxpayer's bill annually. That Assessment expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2022-23. While the Township is not legally obligated to maintain or improve its roads, in 2021 the Board of Trustees renewed

its commitment to supporting local road infrastructure, and in 2023 established the Roads Advisory Committee, which was charged with developing a comprehensive plan for the Township's local roads—one that balances the need for both maintenance and improvement in a fiscally responsible manner.

An ongoing and consistent road maintenance program is essential to preserving the quality of our roads and minimizing long-term costs. Implementing such a strategy is especially critical now, as the Township is experiencing historic growth. In fact, **last year our Township was recognized as one of the fastest growing in the state.** As development continues, the demands on our infrastructure will only increase, making it even more important to invest in proactive and sustainable road management.

The Roads Advisory Committee is in the process of exploring funding sources for future road maintenance and will keep the public informed

BY CAROLINE ALTOMARE AND
PATRICK SHIELDS, RAC MEMBERS

through our meetings, this newsletter, and communications with the Board of Trustees. We invite you to attend RAC's meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Township Hall and online. Meeting agendas, videos, and minutes are posted on the Township website at sciotownship.org/roadsadvisorycommittee.

We also invite you to explore Scio Township's page on the County Road Commission website, wcroads.org/township-profile/scio-township, where you'll find a wealth of good information.



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.



YOUR DDA: SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Formed over two decades ago, the Scio Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was initially focused on building Township water and sewer infrastructure and creating the Jackson Road boulevard. The results of this work are clear as you visit businesses and homes along the Boulevard today. According to the 2021 Census, more than half of Scio's nearly 20,000 residents currently reside along the Jackson Road corridor.

Today, the DDA continues to make Scio a great place to live, work, and visit with three simple objectives: to support local businesses, to improve public spaces, and to help create a

safe, welcoming environment for all. Our current budget reflects these objectives. Budgeted projects include funding ongoing maintenance of the Jackson Road Boulevard and surrounding feeder roads; offsetting the cost of annual fire inspections for DDA businesses; **supplementing the cost of Washtenaw County Road Commission road projects that directly impact the businesses in the DDA district;** and contributing funding to help the Township purchase a new fire truck to keep businesses and visitors safe.

Our future goal is to extend the life of the DDA so it can continue to drive safe, sustainable development in Scio Township while

BY ALEX THOMAS AND JENNIFER
TANKINOW, DDA MEMBERS

maintaining and beautifying the Boulevard. We look forward to continued partnership with the Township Board of Trustees to support the growth of Scio Township.

Stay tuned for more updates from your DDA in this newsletter. Please visit sciotownship.org/DDA, attend our bimonthly meetings, or share your thoughts with us by email at DDA@sciotownshipmi.gov.

PARKS UPDATE

The long-awaited playground at Township Hall Park is finally underway with the completion of Phase I by Branden Broulette and a dedicated group of volunteers. Branden's goal was to oversee the installation of 3 pieces of playground equipment, a project which will earn him his Eagle Scout rank. The stepping stumps were created with black walnut wood harvested from the Van Curler Preserve when the parking lot was cleared (see photo below). We are thrilled to invite the public to come enjoy this new part of Township Hall Park! Stay tuned as future park improvements are planned for Fall 2025 and Fall 2026.



Back Row (L to R): Mike Sefton, Noah Huber, Nik Holly; Front Row: Allison Klonowski

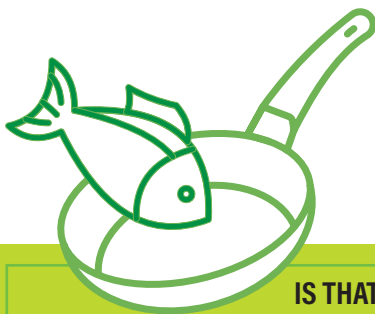
The Parks Department has welcomed 4 new seasonal staff members, known to us affectionately as NATs, or Natural Area Technicians (see photo below). They are focusing on invasive species management, educational programs for the public, and small-scale research projects that will give us new insights into the goings-on of the preserves. If you see them in the field, please stop and introduce yourself! Or meet them at one of our **Volunteer Workdays held every Saturday** this summer in a different location. It's a great way to get to know the land the Township has gone to such lengths to preserve. View the calendar at sciotownship.org/volunteering.

**BY MURPHY HARRINGTON,
PARKS DIRECTOR**

Please be aware that visitors to the Township's parks and preserves may see some major changes this summer and fall. As we tackle some of the main invasive species and natural areas management projects, temporary and, in some cases, quite significant changes may be seen in the landscape. For example, summer staff are employing a torch to help control invasive garlic mustard at the Van Curler Preserve off Joy Road. All these efforts will ultimately increase the biodiversity and health of our Parks and Preserves. Please be patient--native plants take time to become established, but once they are, they require little effort to maintain.



Township Hall Park playground, Phase I: climbing wall, stepping stumps, and sand pit.



IS THAT FISH SAFE?

Eat Safe Fish Guides provide consumption guidelines for eating locally caught fish. Guidelines are based on levels of chemicals found in the portions of fish that people eat – typically the filets. Test results from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories are used to determine what is safe for people to eat over the long term. For more information on how to buy, eat or prepare safe fish, or to get the 2025 *Eat Safe Fish Guide* for our region, visit Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish and select Find Your Area or call the MDHHS Division of Environmental Health at 800-648-6942.

FOOD TRUCK SAFETY IN SCIO

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Because Scio Township has never had an ordinance covering commercial kitchens and flammable gas systems operating out of Mobile Food Service Units—popularly known as Food Trucks—we were attracting unregulated and potentially unsafe operations in the Township. Recognizing this as a gap in fire prevention services, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Brandon Sears and Fire Chief Andy Houde, working with Township attorneys, Clerk Flintoft, and the Board of Trustees, recently updated the Code of Ordinances, Chapters 12 and 18. Visit sciotownship.org/ordinance to read this and all our governing statutes.

While Sears has brought a firm yet friendly approach to fire inspections within the Township business community since 2023, **taking on food trucks is a new area throughout the County**. Over the past year, Sears and other fire

marshals around Washtenaw began working with Fire Departments throughout the state to successfully implement a broadly accepted Mobile Food Truck Fire Safety Inspection program that falls under the umbrella of the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. The program was launched in Washtenaw County in late March when Sears co-coordinated a weekend food truck inspection event. Any food truck interested in operating in Scio Township, or



Washtenaw County, was invited to undergo a fire safety inspection.

Nine inspectors from around the county were also invited to the event, making the process of multiple inspections fluid. Since then, similar events have been scheduled in surrounding jurisdictions.

Mobile food trucks are commercial kitchens on wheels with most of the same requirements in the Fire Code as a brick-and-mortar restaurant. For the protection of workers, customers, and firefighters, it is important to make sure they are operating safely. Over the four inspection events held in Washtenaw County to date, more than forty mobile units have been inspected.

Inspection of food trucks is mandatory annually. Additionally, all food trucks operating within Scio must obtain a Peddlers' Permit from the Clerk. Visit sciotownship.org/peddlers for the application. For further information on the process to operate a food truck in Scio Township, please contact Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Brandon Sears at bsears@sciotownshipmi.gov.

KNOW YOUR TICKS

Not all ticks spread the same germs. MDHHS can help to identify ticks you may encounter. For identification, residents can email photos of ticks to MDHHS-Bugs@Michigan.gov or submit ticks by mail, free of charge. Get more information at Michigan.gov/Lyme.



GUN SAFETY

Firearm injuries are the number one cause of death among children and adolescents in the U.S. and in Michigan. Visit Michigan.gov/firearmsafety to learn about Michigan's safe gun storage law, to source a free gun lock, and to read the recommendations on firearms-related suicide, community violence, school safety, intimate partner violence, and implementation of existing legislation released by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.



HURON RIVER

If you love paddling on the Huron River, check out HuronRiverWaterTrail.org/River-Conditions before you head out this summer. These locations on the Huron River Water Trail are closed for paddling and/or portaging in the 2025 season:

- Huron River at Rickett Road
- Huron River at Barton Dam
- Downstream portage stairs at French Landing Dam
- Hull's Trace

KNOW BEFORE YOU SEAL!

If you seal your asphalt driveway, avoid using coal tar sealcoats. Banned by Scio Township since 2016 (use and sale are both banned), these products have high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), many of which are hazardous to human health. Instead, choose asphalt-based, acrylic, or latex alternatives with low or no PAHs. Learn more at hrwc.org/coal-tar.



SCIO FLYERS

INSPIRING INNOVATION THROUGH MODEL AVIATION

BY JAMES HARTWELL,
PRESIDENT, SCIO FLYERS

Operating out of Township Hall Park, Scio Flyers has provided a welcoming space for enthusiasts to engage in flight, engineering, and teamwork while exploring real-world applications of science and technology since 1988. A central mission of Scio Flyers is advancing STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—by integrating hands-on learning with aviation principles. The club fosters critical thinking and problem-solving through model aircraft and UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems), including drones and remotely operated aircraft used in research, industry, and recreation.

Scio Flyers has obtained 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational status, allowing the club to expand its STEM initiatives and outreach efforts.

This year, Scio Flyers launched its first UAS4STEM team, marking an exciting new chapter in the club's history. The team demonstrated strong technical ability and teamwork during the 2025 preliminary



competition. Judges praised their safety-first approach, highlighting the rigorous testing of system components and structured go/no-go procedures. Their thorough safety checklist ensured operational discipline, resulting in smooth execution during flight operations.

Beyond technical skills, the judges recognized the team's diverse age range and collaborative spirit, applauding how students from different backgrounds worked together effectively to tackle challenges. Well-defined roles and structured coordination helped the team exceed expectations, showcasing organization and professionalism uncommon for a first-year group.

For students, UAS4STEM has been transformational, helping them gain confidence, refine engineering skills, and explore STEM career pathways. With mentorship from club members who are experienced pilots and industry professionals, students develop teamwork, leadership, and adaptability while applying STEM principles in real-world

environments. The program also strengthens problem-solving abilities, as participants troubleshoot flight performance, adjust configurations, and optimize mission strategies under competition conditions.

Beyond its impact on students, UAS4STEM has expanded Scio Flyers' role in STEM outreach, strengthening its commitment to education while engaging the broader community.

The program has energized club members, bridging traditional model aviation with emerging drone technologies and ensuring accessibility for learners of all backgrounds.

For more than three decades, Scio Flyers has remained committed to providing opportunities for anyone interested in aviation. Now, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the club is better positioned than ever to expand its STEM programs, strengthen community engagement, and ensure long-term sustainability. For more information, visit www.scioflyers.com.

MEET JEFF FULLERTON

Staff and officials working out of Township Hall are delighted to welcome Jeff Fullerton to staff. As our new building and grounds staff, Jeff was hired on in March to handle everything from general cleaning and landscape maintenance to special projects such as floor waxing, painting, HVAC filter replacement, and fixture repairs. In a pinch he will hop onto any small repair job he sees, including fixing paper jams in the office copiers! He's everywhere all at once, always helpful, always smiling. He even keeps his eye on the pest control situation, for which we are all very grateful. Jeff lives in Grass



BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Lake with his wife Jenette, where he likes to hunt and fish. He has two adult daughters, one in law enforcement in Indiana and one works for Trinity Health in Ann Arbor. He has one grandson nearing his first birthday. Jeff comes to Scio from various sales positions in office cleaning supplies and hopes to finish out his career taking care of ... well, just about everything at Township Hall. Jeff says, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve with the great team in place here in Scio."

THE WAVE BUS SERVICE

WAVE (Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express) offers reliable and affordable public transportation for all Scio Township residents and visitors. Two fixed routes—the Jackson Road Connector and the Community Connector—provide daily service along key corridors, connecting riders to destinations in Chelsea, Dexter, and Ann Arbor 7 days a week. Both routes meet up with AAATA bus #30 at the Meijer on Zeeb Road. In addition, WAVE's Door-to-Door service offers convenient, personalized rides: we pick you up at your home and take you anywhere in Washtenaw County for just \$5, Monday through Friday, 6 am - 9:30 pm. This flexible option is perfect for errands, medical

appointments, or visiting friends. With WAVE, getting around Scio Township and beyond is easy, accessible, and budget-friendly.

This summer, ride WAVE's fixed routes and win! From March through August, every ride on the Chelsea Community Ride, Community Connector, or Jackson Road Connector earns you a raffle ticket—no limit on entries! Routes run daily, so ride often to boost your chances. Each month features a new prize, and July's prize will be a \$25 Visa gift card and a WAVE swag shirt. It's our way of saying thank you for riding and supporting public transit!

BY SHASTA GRIFKA, WESTERN-WASHTENAW AREA VALUE EXPRESS

SIGN SIGN EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Township ordinance 16.49(g) states: "Under no circumstances may any sign be erected on the public right-of-way... The township may remove and destroy or otherwise dispose of, without notice to any person, any sign which is erected on the public right-of-way." The public right-of-way is generally the area between the sidewalk and the curb. Help keep driver distraction and blight to a minimum—place your signs outside the right-of-way.

ATTENTION WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS

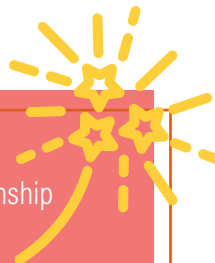
From time to time, the technicians who work in the Utilities Department may be in your area and may even knock on your door. When that is the case, they will always be driving a Township truck, wearing Township gear, and carrying or wearing their official work badges. The QR code on their badges will automatically link to the Township directory when a camera phone is pointed at them. Be confident that you are dealing with Township staff when anyone is working on the water and sewer infrastructure near or in your home!

HOW'S YOUR SEPTIC?

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has teamed up with Michigan Saves, the nation's first non-profit green bank to offer low-cost loans to homeowners who need to repair or replace their failing septic systems. It is estimated that more than 20% of Michigan's 1.3 million septic systems are failing. Old septic systems beyond their life expectancy, outdated system designs and installations, improper use or overuse, and lack of maintenance can lead to untreated wastewater rising to surface water or seeping into groundwater, potentially exposing people and animals to harmful bacteria and viruses. With the cost of a replacement septic system ranging from \$8,000 to \$30,000, low-interest loans to help finance these projects is a welcome benefit of Public Act 53 of 2022. The Septic Replacement Loan Program (SRLP) launched in the summer of 2023 and has resulted in thousands of gallons of sewage per day being safely and adequately treated so clean water can re-enter the environment. For more information on accessing a loan to improve your septic system, go to MichiganSaves.org/septic.

FIREWORKS

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



AIR QUALITY ALERTS

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) urges residents to monitor air quality conditions in their area and adjust their level of physical activity accordingly this summer. Sign up for the text alerts at www.enviroflash.info.



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

NOTICE OF WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE


Effective July 1, 2025, there will be a 5% increase in the water and sewer rates charged to Scio customers. The new water rate will be \$13.05 per 1,000 gallons; the new sewer rate will be \$13.51 per 1,000 gallons.

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

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

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jkerry@sciotownshipmi.gov
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dread@sciotownshipmi.gov
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jreiser@sciotownshipmi.gov
Office Coordinator Kristy Aiken
kaiken@sciotownshipmi.gov

STAFF DIRECTORY



FIRE STATION 1
1055 N Zeeb Rd
Business line(734) 665-6001
Emergencies.....911
sciotownship.org/fire
Fire Chief Andrew Houde
ahoude@sciotownshipmi.gov
Fire Marshal Brandon Sears
bsears@sciotownshipmi.gov

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

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

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

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algarrett@sciotownshipmi.gov