



C O M M U N I T Y R E P O R T

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

Brian Koch, Fire, 28 years

Matthew Donajkowski, Utilities, 5 years

Murphy Harrington, Parks, 1 year

Fran Szuma, Administration, 24 years

David Podvoyski, Utilities, 4 years

Tommy Begres, Fire, 1 year

Eric Holzer, Fire, 14 years

Rebecca Baiocco, Assessing, 3 years

David Pieknik, Fire, 1 year

Rebecca Maute, Finance, 12 years

Belisha King, Finance, 1 year

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS

When a firefighter is hired, they undergo a 1-year probationary period. The main purpose of a probationary period is to allow us to evaluate the new firefighter and make sure he or she meets our standards. Probationary firefighters are trained and tested on our equipment, vehicles, and operating procedures.

In spring of 2024, we brought on FF Brent Newsom, and in fall of 2024, we brought on FFs Tommy Begres and David Pieknik. In spring of 2025, FF Newsom successfully completed his probationary period, and this fall, both FF Begres and FF Pieknik successfully completed their

probationary periods. Congratulations to all three, they are welcome additions to the department!

FIRE STATION 2 PROJECT

As the fire station 2 planning began, we knew we were under a tight timeline to get the building started this year. Due to several complications, it looks like we will have to move groundbreaking to early spring 2026. While we are disappointed by the delay, the team, including Architect, engineering, construction management, and internal staff, believes that it will provide a better-quality project in the end. **We now expect that the groundbreaking will occur March/April 2026**, as soon as the weather permits.

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

We are incorporating many sustainable components into the building, including geothermal heating and cooling, a solar array, a well-insulated building envelope, along with several other features to bring the building as close to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as we can. We hope that the work on this project will exceed Scio's sustainability goals and be an environmental leader for the community. Residents can track the fire station 2 project online at SciOTownshipMI.gov/Station2. We will update the project as it moves along.

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL

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

OFFICERS

Supervisor Jillian Kerry
jkerry@sciotownshipmi.gov
Clerk Jessica Flintoft
jflintoft@sciotownshipmi.gov
Treasurer Ryan Yaple
ryaple@sciotownshipmi.gov
Trustee Kathleen Brant
kbrant@sciotownshipmi.gov
Trustee Kathleen Knol
kknol@sciotownshipmi.gov
Trustee David Read
dread@sciotownshipmi.gov
Trustee John Reiser
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
sciotownshipmi.gov/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
sciotownshipmi.gov/utilities

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

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Director Murphy Harrington
mharrington@sciotownshipmi.gov

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Assessor Andrea Garrett
algarrett@sciotownshipmi.gov



THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Editor Mary Gillis Graphic Design Julie Tanguay Printing and Mailing Allegra

ELECTIONS UPDATE

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

BY BARBARA CALLEJA, DEPUTY CLERK

BALLOT PROPOSAL

Washtenaw Intermediate School District "Area Career and Technical Education Proposal." Read the proposal at Michigan.gov/vote.

All registered Scio Township voters may vote by absentee ballot or in person.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Voters on the Permanent Ballot List were mailed their ballots the week of September 20. Request an absentee ballot at Michigan.gov/vote or by contacting the Clerk's Office by phone (734) 369-9400 or email, clerk@sciotownshipmi.gov. Absentee ballots must be returned by 8 pm Election night, November 4.

IN PERSON VOTING ON ELECTION DAY, 7 AM TO 8 PM

PRECINCT 1

Washtenaw Intermediate School District, 1819 S. Wagner Road

PRECINCT 2

Kiwanis Club
100 North Staebler Road, Ste C

PRECINCT 3

Washtenaw Intermediate School District
1819 S. Wagner Road

PRECINCT 4

Polo Fields Main Club House
5200 Polo Fields Drive

PRECINCT 5

Scio Farms Community Club House,
6655 Jackson Road

NOT YET REGISTERED TO VOTE IN SCIO TOWNSHIP?

Register online at Michigan.gov/vote until October 20, 2025, or in person at the Scio Township Clerk's Office, 827 N. Zeeb Road, open Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm.

THERE IS NO IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING OPTION FOR THIS ELECTION

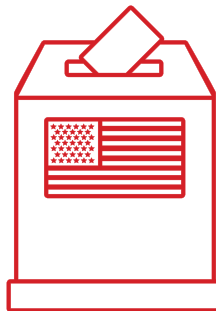
Ballot drop boxes are checked daily:

Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd.

Scio Foods, 6950 Jackson Rd.

BALLOT DROP BOXES ARE CHECKED DAILY:

Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd.
Scio Foods, 6950 Jackson Rd.



CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

REGULAR HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm

SPECIAL WEEKEND HOURS:

Saturday, October 25
9 am to 2 pm

Sunday, October 26
1 pm to 4 pm

Saturday, November 1,
9 am to 2 pm

Sunday, November 2
1 pm to 4 pm

FEDERAL ACTIONS IMPACTING MICHIGAN

To stay updated on key federal actions impacting Michigan, and to report disruptions in social security, visit the Department of the Michigan Attorney General's Federal Actions Tracker webpage, michigan.gov/ag/news/federal-actions-tracker.

REPORT FRAUD

Scammers don't just scam one person, so if you detect a scam, help your community, help protect your friends and your family, by reporting it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Every time you file a report with the Federal Trade Commission you help build cases, stop scammers, and alert others about current trends.



fire trucks!

games!

magic!

HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

face painting!

pony rides!

bounce house!

1055 N. Zeeb Rd.

SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION 1

firefighters!

OCT 26
1-4PM

SCIO TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE
16
DEPT.
MI

TRICK
or
TREAT

DIOXANE WELL-TESTING UPDATE

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) conducted testing of residential drinking water wells for dioxane in Scio Township during the spring of 2025. All wells that were tested were within 500 feet of a previously documented dioxane detection. A total of 117 wells were sampled, resulting in 47 detections of reportable dioxane.

The recent testing utilized a method capable of detecting dioxane down to 0.2 ppb. Prior testing by EGLE and WCHD could only detect dioxane down to 0.5 ppb. Previously, when Scio Township conducted well testing, we utilized Method 522, which is capable of detecting dioxane down to 0.12 ppb. Method 522 is the most sensitive of the three methods noted in this article and is the preferred testing method of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Scio has consistently advocated to EGLE and the WCHD that Method 522 be used for all dioxane drinking water well testing conducted in Washtenaw County.

The spring 2025 testing revealed 6 “new” positive dioxane detections in Scio Township. Some of these wells tested negative in the past when EGLE used the test that could only detect down to 0.5 ppb, so it is unclear whether these are actually new detections or merely newly detected by a more sensitive testing method. Most of the recent new detections are between 0.2 ppb and 0.5 ppb.

EGLE has attributed most of the recent detections to the greater sensitivity of the testing method that was used this time. In written correspondence to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (US House of Representatives District 6) dated 8/28/25, EGLE director Phillip Roos commented, “As EGLE’s sampling methods become more sensitive and capable of detecting dioxane at lower concentrations, EGLE anticipates that it will see more detections than it did in previous sampling events. This is not an indication that dioxane has migrated to previously uncontaminated areas. Instead, it is the result of the sampling method’s ability to detect dioxane at lower concentrations.”

The Township Board of Trustees continues to be faced with numerous challenges related to the Gelman dioxane plume. The EPA may be subject to significant budget cuts, raising doubts about whether our efforts to get the plume onto the National Priorities List will bear fruit. I find it especially concerning that, at 7.2 ppb, the State of Michigan permits the highest level of dioxane contamination of drinking water wells in the country. **In my opinion, the situation here in Scio Township underlines the need for three significant changes:**

1. There needs to be broader testing close to known contamination sites utilizing Method 522 over a period of time to help to identify trends in the plume migration;
2. The State of Michigan needs to adopt a drinking water standard for dioxane in line with the (far lower) standards in other states;
3. The EPA needs to be fully funded to address the environmental hazards our communities are facing.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PARKS

BY MURPHY HARRINGTON,
PARKS DIRECTOR

Summer 2025 saw the completion of three major projects at Township Hall Park, the Scio Township-owned park located just behind Township Hall. This park is the site of a pathway improvement project and playground installation. The pathway improvement included the leveling and installation of crushed limestone for the purpose of creating an ADA-accessible path around the circumference of the property. The playground construction, which is the first part of a three-part plan, includes a net-climbing structure, log stepper, and sandbox. The next phase of the playground installation is slated for Fall 2025 and will include a metal slide, a timber dome, and much more. We are also excited to

report that the external public restroom will soon be open, with hours of availability to be announced. We look forward to seeing you out and about on the trails and playground!



photo credit: Matt Donajkowski

WASHTENAW CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS

This fall has been a busy and exciting season for conservation in Washtenaw County. On September 5, we hosted our annual Field Day, bringing together farmers and community members to learn about soil health practices, conservation tools, and the latest research supporting sustainable farming. Later in the month, our Fall Tree and Native Plant Sale on September 26 gave residents the chance to plant native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that support pollinators and strengthen local ecosystems. We also enjoyed connecting with residents through our conserved farm tours, which give the community a chance to explore local farms, meet farmers, and learn how farmland

protection benefits us all.

The WCCD is especially grateful for the many volunteers who make our events possible. From helping at sales and tours to supporting education and outreach, your time and dedication strengthen conservation efforts throughout the county.

Looking ahead, the WCCD continues to support ongoing community programs. **The Washtenaw Tool Bank Collective offers residents access to conservation tools for rent at low or no cost.** In addition, the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is back for another year, and we're currently looking for both organic farmers interested in mentoring and farmers curious

BY ALEXA TEDESCHI, WCCD OUTREACH COORDINATOR

about transitioning to organic practices who would like to be mentees.

Finally, effective October 1, [MiFarmLink.org](https://www.mifarmlink.org), became a program of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. MiFarmLink connects farmland owners with farmers seeking land, helping keep Michigan farmland in production. WCCD has been instrumental in creating this online land conservation tool and we are proud to have the program taken up by conservation districts state-wide. To learn more about our programs, sign up for events, or get involved with conservation in your community, visit [washtenawcd.org](https://www.washtenawcd.org).

FALL GARDEN CLEANUP FOR POLLINATOR HEALTH

Putting a perennial garden to bed for the year is a well-established fall tradition. As we have become more aware of the role our native pollinators play in the ecosystem, **some of our former best practices are being reconsidered by advocates for beneficial insects.** For example, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources encourages us to leave as much of the autumn leaves in place as possible. They note that our native bumblebees benefit from available leaf litter as do salamanders, toads, frogs, and eastern box turtle hatchlings. The Xerces Society ([Xerces.org](https://www.xerces.org)), a nonprofit, science-based conservation organization that promotes pollinator health, endangered species conservation, and pesticide-free habitat

reminds us that "Leaving the leaves and other plant debris doesn't have to mean sacrificing your yard to the wilderness. The leaves don't need to be left exactly where they fall. You can rake them into garden beds, around tree bases, or into other designated areas. Too many leaves can kill grass, but in soil, they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition."

Likewise, Douglas W. Tallamy, in his book, *Nature's Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*, expresses concern that the traditional fall cleanup is particularly hard on bee populations. The stems of black-eyed Susans, sunflowers, and other perennials that are commonly cut back in the fall provide a home for stem nesters over the winter. Cleanup compromises such as tying

BY STEVEN HURT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEMBER

cut stems together in decorative bundles that can overwinter in an appropriate part of the yard is recommended to satisfy the meticulous gardener and the bees and katydids equally.

Finally, if you plan to tidy the leaves and stems in the spring, remember to wait for some consistently warm April weather so that you're not destroying the emerging life you've worked to protect. It turns out there are tweaks we can make to our garden traditions that will help our plants as well as the insects with which they have a symbiotic relationship.

REDUCE YOUR PERSONAL CARBON FOOTPRINT THROUGH YOUR FOOD CHOICES

- Eliminating food waste can reduce your individual footprint by up to 1.3 tons annually.
- Reducing red meat consumption makes the biggest difference. Beef's greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram are 7.2 times greater than chicken.
- Choose plant-based alternatives that typically have 10 to 50 times smaller climate impact than animal products.
- Eat seasonally and locally when possible.

FROM THE UTILITIES DIRECTOR

BY BRANDON MCNIEL,
UTILITIES DIRECTOR

would like to provide an important update on how the Township Board has worked with the Utility Department to maintain and extend the life of key utility assets.

Two years ago, the Board approved an annual contract with Pipeline Management to provide for the cleaning and televising (TV'ing) of our sewer mains. **TV inspections are crucial, as they enable us to identify problem areas with precision.** Based on the results of these inspections, the Township has budgeted an additional amount for sewer main repairs. This proactive approach will help increase the longevity of our infrastructure and reduce the need for expensive emergency repairs in the future.

The process of lining and grouting damaged sewer mains helps reduce the amount of groundwater and rainwater that enters the system through cracks or defects. Once this excess water enters the sewer system, it becomes part of the total flow that we are billed

for by the City of Ann Arbor for wastewater treatment. **By actively repairing these areas, we can significantly reduce unnecessary treatment costs and save ratepayer dollars.**

In addition to securing our sewer infrastructure, we have also made major strides in improving our water delivery system. Two years ago, the Township Board authorized the Utility Department to launch our first-ever water meter replacement project. As water meters age, their internal components wear out, often resulting in under-reporting of water usage. While this might appear beneficial to individual customers, it contributes to an overall issue known as water loss—the difference between the amount of water the Township purchases and the amount billed to customers. Ultimately, all customers pay for this water loss through increased water rates. By replacing aging meters, we are taking a major step toward ensuring accurate billing and a fairer distribution of costs.

Most recently, the Township Board approved a leak detection program for our water system—another first for our community. **This proactive initiative allows for early identification and repair of hidden leaks that might otherwise go unnoticed for years.** During the initial investigation, the contractor successfully identified an active leak, which has since been repaired by our crews.

Proactive measures like meter replacements and leak detection not only help reduce long-term costs but also ensure our infrastructure is properly maintained, reliable, and efficient for years to come. Accurate metering helps the Township more effectively manage our water resources and reduces long-term financial strain on the system. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to protect and enhance our Township's vital infrastructure.

WELCOME STEVEN SHEPHERD, UTILITIES TECHNICIAN

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

This fall we welcome a new member to the Utilities Department team. Steven Shepherd comes to Scio from Multi-Lake Water and Sewer Authority, a wastewater treatment plant serving parts of Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Work-related training brought him into contact with technicians who spoke highly of working here in Scio Township and when an opening in the Department came up, Steve applied. Steve has nearly 10 years' experience in the sewer side of



utilities work and is relishing the opportunity to learn the water side of things here in Scio. Steve lives in Stockbridge, and enjoys fishing and playing guitar. Now that his father is retired, they may put together a band to play classic rock at local bars on the weekends. Steve says he loves customer service and is "very excited to serve the residents of this beautiful township."

The water rate increase was previously reported in error as \$13.05. The accurate water rate is \$13.08 per 1000 gallons, effective July 1, 2025. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Back in the 1980s, leadership in Scio Township acknowledged a big problem: property values in the downtown district (along Jackson Road between Wagner and Baker roads) were in decline. The suspected cause: local drinking water wells had been discovered to be contaminated. In addition, Jackson Road was too narrow to support the kind of traffic needed to feed a business district. The solution: to connect this area to municipal water supply from Ann Arbor, and to upgrade Jackson Road (including a boulevard) to accommodate the increased traffic flow. To enact this solution, the Board of Trustees created the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in 1988.

A DDA is a very specific type of remedy to municipal problems, one that is governed by state law (Public Act 197 of 1975) but enacted at the local level. Importantly, **the law allows a DDA to capture a portion of tax revenue and direct it toward improvement of the downtown area.** This is known as tax increment financing, meaning that some portion of the difference between the taxable value of properties within the defined district at the time of the formation of the DDA and the current value comes to the DDA instead of the entities (such as public libraries, community colleges, and township and county government) it would

otherwise go to. Thus, the decision to create the DDA is an indication of how seriously the Board took the decline of the downtown district that it was worth temporarily diverting funds from public services in order to improve the district.

And it worked! **The DDA bonded millions of dollars to create the Scio Township water and sewer district that so many of us have enjoyed for years.** Indeed, it has been found that more than half the population of the Township is clustered around Jackson Road. And the Jackson Road Boulevard is the signature downtown site, lining our township with a green space that reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting our rural character even as it carries visitors to businesses and residential developments. Property values in the district have risen. And the population of the Township has doubled since the 1980s.

All this is due to the vision and efforts of Township officials and the volunteers--local business owners and residents--who staffed the DDA during the more than three decades of its existence. **It is an awesome responsibility to take charge of public funds, and we all should be grateful to these individuals for their work on behalf of the Township.** Some say the work is not done, that the DDA could continue to improve the downtown district. But the current Board of Trustees decided to stop

re-directing monies that taxpayers had voted to support parks, libraries, and schools toward the business district. As Clerk Flintoft stated at the August 12 Board meeting that ultimately dissolved the DDA: "Funds captured through the TIF (tax increment financing) come from local taxpayers, not the state, and those funds should remain tied to their original purpose." Trustee David Read noted that **under Public Act 57, a DDA "must dissolve once its goals are accomplished,"** and "the DDA's goals--addressing water supply issues, preventing road deterioration, and stabilizing property values--were completed years ago." Residents can therefore rest easy knowing that, once the last of the debt carried by the DDA is paid off (which is projected to occur in November), the remaining monies collected by the DDA will be returned to the original taxing authorities, funding the public services we all enjoy. Thank you to past and present DDA members for your faithful service!

A REAL HERO SPEAKS UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.

Be a real hero. If you see or hear something that threatens student or school safety, submit a confidential tip to OK2SAY@mi.gov.



MICROCHIP YOUR PETS

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), about 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the US every year. The AVMA reports microchipped dogs are more than twice as likely to be returned to their owners, and microchipped cats are 20 times more likely to be returned. Pet owners should work with their veterinarian to get their animals microchipped or to have their chip scanned during their next vet appointment to confirm the registration information.

JACKSON ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY NEXT STEPS

BY JAN CULBERTSON, PLANNING CHAIR

The 6-month study of the Jackson Road Corridor reached its conclusion with the presentation of its final report to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting held on August 19, 2025. Professional examination of the area as it currently functions was informed by input from the public and a focus group of area stakeholders to create a set of goals for improving safety and non-motorized connectivity, and guiding future development decisions. Major themes identified

by community members are depicted below. In the coming months and years, the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees will be responsible for prioritizing and implementing report recommendations ranging from adding mid-block pedestrian crosswalks to improving public transportation to embracing mixed-use zoning and implementing outdoor gathering spaces along the corridor. Read the full report at SciOTownshipMI.gov/JacksonRoad.

Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) is making important service adjustments in Scio Township to better serve riders while balancing funding realities. The Community Connector and Jackson Road routes are being modified to add new stops at some of the most popular Door-to-Door drop-off locations, while weekday schedules for the Community Connector and Jackson Road Connector are being updated. On weekends, the Community Connector and Jackson Road Connector will operate as a combined route, improving efficiency. Thanks to the Washtenaw County Older Persons Millage, all Washtenaw County residents age 60 and older can now ride the WAVE for free, helping ensure seniors remain connected to their communities.

MAJOR THEMES FROM THE COMMUNITY



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety



Walkability and Transit Access



Traffic Flow and Vehicle Safety



Aesthetic and Noise Reduction



Mixed-Use Development and Housing



Business and Community Needs



HEALTH INSURANCE

"Access to affordable, quality health insurance is important for staying healthy and for peace of mind and financial security," says Michigan Dept of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) Director Anita Fox. "Michiganders who need help finding or maintaining health insurance or understanding their options can call DIFS at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm or visit Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance."

FOOD WASTE COMPOST PILOT

Starting November 1, **Scio Township Hall will host a Food Waste Compost Drop-off Station, which will accept food waste and compostable tableware** for composting. This new program is intended to divert food waste from landfills, a major contributor to greenhouse gases. The Drop-Off Station is for food waste and compostable tableware only, no yard waste will be accepted.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Sign up on the website. This is a pilot program so it will be important to track number of participants. Register your interest at ScioTownshipMI.gov/compost.

Attend a brief in-person or virtual education session to learn how it works. A video recording of the session will be available on the website for future participants.

Set aside compostable items, including fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds/ filters and tea bags, bread and grain products, dairy

products, meat and bones, chemical-free paper towels and napkins, and certified compostable products for transport to the Drop-off Station.

Choose BPI-certified compostable products for all the disposable tableware in your household or business. Find eligible brand names at products.bpiworld.org then purchase appropriate products in your local store.

Drop off your compost during Drop-off Station open hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 am - 6 pm and Saturdays, 10 am-4 pm

WHY COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS?

Composting turns food waste into a valuable resource that can be used to nourish gardens, farms, and landscapes.

Diverting organic material extends the life of your septic system and existing landfills.

Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions and sequesters carbon when applied to soil.

Compost can replace chemical fertilizers, which cause eutrophication, algal blooms, and fish die-offs.

BY JAN CULBERTSON, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

The Scio Food Waste Compost Drop-off Station does not accept yard waste (grass clippings, weeds, sticks, etc.). But yard waste composting is easy for Priority Waste residential customers, who have access to weekly pick-up April 1 through December 15. If the trash company contracted by your HOA does not collect yard waste and composting it on your property is not an option, you are encouraged to take your yard waste to the Ann Arbor Composting Center run by We Care Denali, located at 4170 Platt Road Building #2 in Ann Arbor, ph. (410) 849-6117.

FOOD WASTE COMPOST DROP-OFF STATION

Located behind Township Hall

827 N Zeeb Road

Drop-off Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 am – 6 pm

Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm

WILDFIRE SMOKE

The summer of 2025 set a new record in terms of wildfire smoke. Consequently, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Air Quality Division has released a new webpage, Michigan.gov/EGLEWildfireSmoke. Find information on how EGLE responds to wildfire smoke events, how to learn more about the issue, how to participate in data collection with your own air quality sensor, and more.

VAMPIRE LOADS

Combat "vampire loads" (energy drain from electronics in standby mode) by using smart power strips that automatically cut power to devices when they're not in use. Unplug chargers, coffee makers, gaming systems, and other electronics when not needed.



LOOKING TO BUY, RENT, OR LEASE FARMLAND IN MICHIGAN?

Whether you're a beginning farmer searching for land or a landowner exploring future options for your property, MIFarmLink.org connects people to farmland and supports long-term, successful land access. Join this growing network to find resources, build relationships, and keep Michigan's farmland farming for generations to come.

BURNING LEAVES: ILLEGAL AND BAD FOR HEALTH

While the smell of burning leaves can bring back fond memories of autumns of the past, burning leaves produces particulate matter that is harmful to human health and the environment. In addition to air pollution, leaf burning poses a significant fire hazard. Dry leaves ignite easily, and outdoor fires can quickly get out of control, especially during windy or dry conditions. For all these reasons, the **burning of leaves and grass clippings is prohibited under state law and is not authorized in Scio Township (Township Ordinances ch. 18, sec. 307.1.1 Prohibited Open Burning).**

Residents are encouraged to compost leaves or use yard waste collection services provided by your trash company. These alternatives not only reduce pollution but also contribute to healthier soil and a greener Scio Township.

Permits are required for the open burning of yard waste (vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, brush, or tree trimmings that are less than four feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, which can all be converted to compost). Permits are issued by the Fire Department and must be obtained before burning starts. The permit application can be found at SciOTownshipMI.gov/burnpermit or by calling the Fire Department at (734) 665-6001.

Recreation fires (smaller than 3' wide and 2' tall), while not illegal, increase greenhouse gas emissions and have health risks. Reduce exposure for your family and community by eliminating or minimizing recreational fires:

- Use gas fire tables/pits if gathering around a fire is a tradition for your family. Propane burns cleaner, but all fossil fuels contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

BY KEITH DE ZWAAN, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND JAN CULBERTSON, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

- Limit the quantity, duration, and proximity of wood fires. Keep fires going with air access, don't let them smolder.
- Select dry, seasoned wood. Store wood off the ground and cover only the top for at least six months before use.
- **Never burn trash, cardboard, plastics, colored ink magazines or boxes, or unclean wood including wet, rotten, moldy wood or treated, painted, plywood, particle board, or glued wood. It is illegal and toxic.**

The DNR has announced changes in 2026 prescribed burn permit requirements. When published, changes will be on the Township website at SciOTownshipMI.gov/burnpermit.

DEXTER SENIOR CENTER

Hello Scio Township residents! Fall is off to a great start at Dexter Senior Center. **With our move to 2740 Baker Road complete, we're busy growing our programs, services, and activities every day.**

In October, we're adding fresh programs and special events, including Lunch and Learn sessions on being your own caregiver, holistic medicine, and financial planning. We're also hosting presentations on insomnia, loving someone living with dementia, and

understanding vertigo and balance. There will be Loris Hands student volunteer visits and Friends for Life with the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Stay healthy at our immunization clinic with Jensen Pharmacy on October 22. And Medicare Open Enrollment help is available by appointment through AgeWays SHIP on October 27, 29, and November 24.

We'll round out the month with Halloween bingo on October 30 and a Motown Music and History party with a themed costume contest on October 31.

BY ANNA PEKRUL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEXTER SENIOR CENTER

New and continuing activities and services include massage appointments, canvas painting, Cooking for Less demos and lunch, tai chi, line dancing, barn dancing, and resin and plaster art.

These are just some of the events we have to offer at the Dexter Senior Center. Check out our monthly newsletter at dexterseniors.org for a full listing or call us at 734-426-7737. Membership is \$35 per year for adults 55 and up. We can't wait to see you!





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

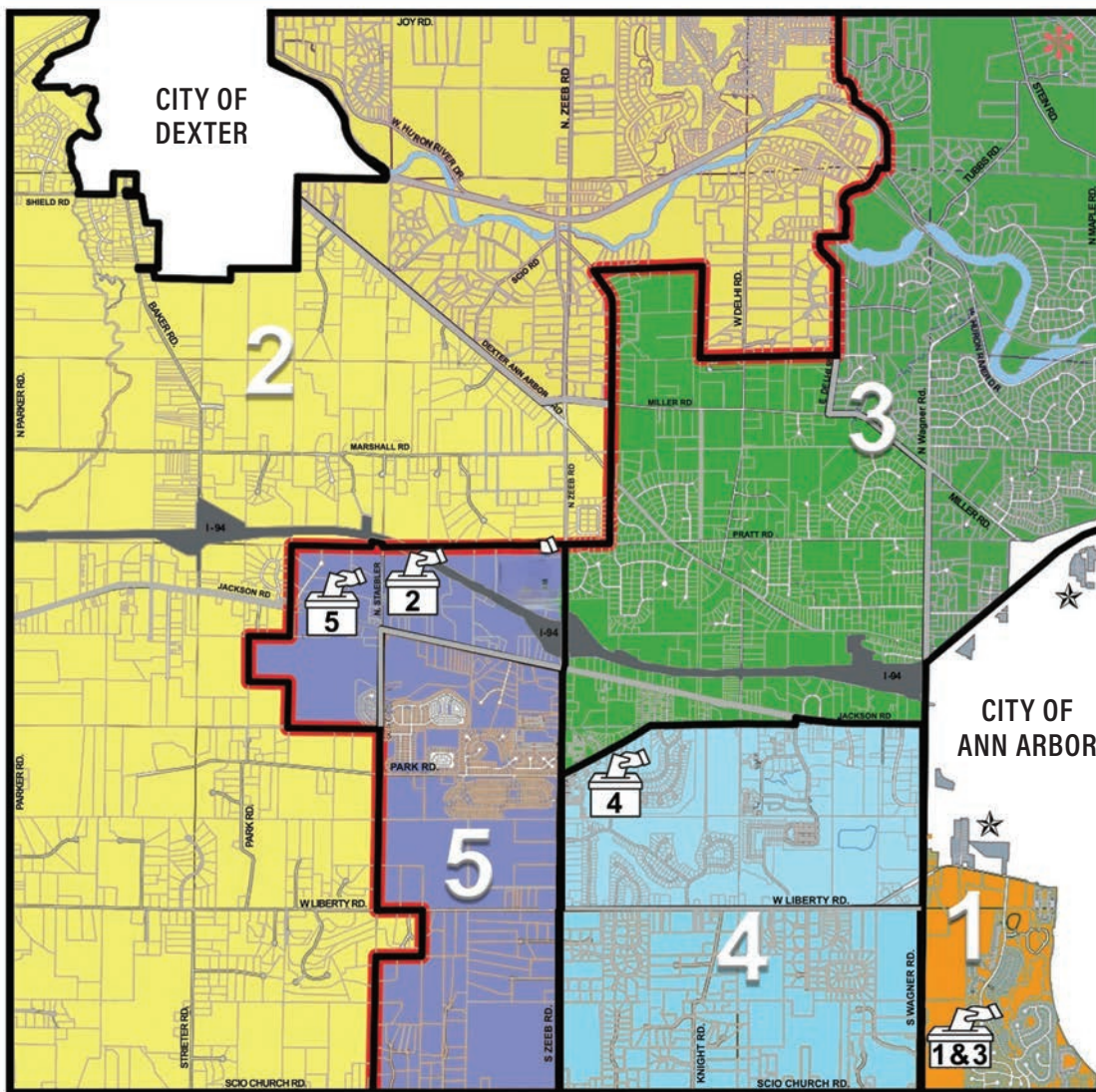
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To Scio Neighbor

SCIO PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES



ELECTION DAY VOTING

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

- POLLING PLACE**
- PRECINCT BOUNDARY**
- SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY**

Absentee Ballots are due to the Clerk's Office by 8 pm. on Election Day,

Map approved November 2023