



SPRING 2026

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

Lance Baird, Fire Lieutenant, 12 years
Robert Stelzer, Fire Lieutenant, 10 years
Andy Houde, Fire Chief, 6 years

Brandon Sears, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire
Marshal, 3 years
Terry Soave, Fire Administrative Assistant,
3 years

Keith DeZwaan, Code Enforcement, 1 year
Jeff Fullerton, Building & Grounds, 1 year

SLOAN PRESERVE MORE THAN DOUBLED IN SIZE

Many years ago, Scio's Land Preservation Commission (LPC) tasked me with identifying and prioritizing all of the remaining undeveloped properties in the Township. Applications were submitted and scored because the **Township wanted to make sure wanted to make sure our dedicated millage funds were being used to conserve the highest quality natural and agricultural sites.** Over the years many of those properties have been conserved, though some have been developed. A few properties were at the top of the list—and one of those recently became our latest preservation purchase.

Scio's Farmland and Open Space Preservation millage was approved by voters in November 2004 and has been renewed by wide margins twice since that date. Our very first completed project was a conservation easement purchase on 173 acres of the Davenport property, located at the northeast corner of Parker Rd. and

Marshall Rd. The property has a mix of woods, farm fields and frontage on Mill Creek (a State of Michigan natural river). The Davenports did not include a 79-acre parcel in that initial conservation easement, but I remained in contact with the family over the years to remind them of Scio's ongoing interest in conserving it.

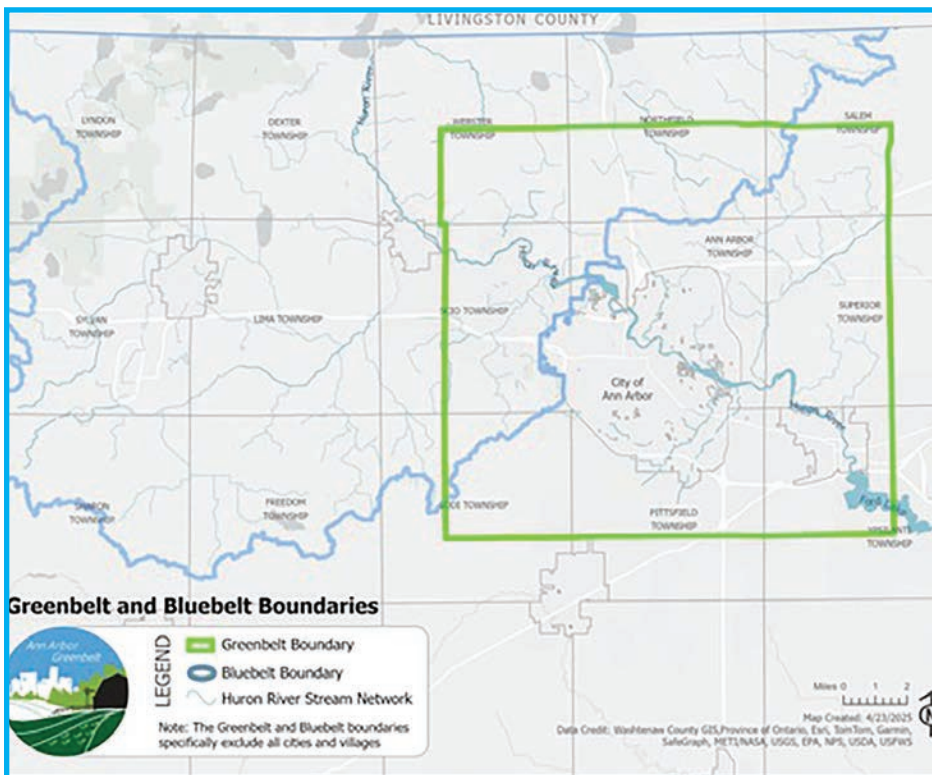
Last summer I ran into John Davenport, who said the family had decided to sell the remaining 79 acres and asked if Scio was still interested in buying it. I encouraged him to submit an application to the LPC and Scio began its due diligence (obtaining a title commitment, boundary survey, and hazardous material evaluation). **The property features 12 acres of upland woods, 42 acres of riparian wetlands and floodplain, and 25 acres of hayfields.** The quality and diversity of the natural areas on this land are uniquely high.

Funding support for the purchase of this property was sought from the Washtenaw

BY BARRY LONIK,
LAND PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

County Natural Area Preservation Program and the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt program. Significantly, the Davenport's 79-acre parcel includes 1,800 feet on both sides of Mill Creek as well as 1,500 feet on both sides of an unnamed perennial tributary creek, making it a prime candidate for conservation under Ann Arbor's new Bluebelt program. The Bluebelt program was created in 2024 to protect the sources of the city's drinking water. The three local land preservation programs completed all evaluations and approvals quickly and the purchase was completed on February 26. The property borders the Sloan Preserve on its north. Trails will be extended through the newly added land though it is not currently open to the public. With this project the Township program has been involved in protecting 1,822 acres, with more projects set to close in the coming months.

"This purchase was a big step forward for Scio Township's sustainability goals—protecting high-quality wetlands, floodplain, woods, and hayfields, and safeguarding the health of Mill Creek while keeping this land forever rural," remarked Lisa Pappas, co-chair of the Scio Land Preservation Commission. "Just as important, it shows what's possible when we work together: **thanks to our funding partners, the Township was able to protect an irreplaceable piece of Scio's landscape** while paying only about one-third of the total cost. That's a win for our environment, our voters, and the beautiful open character of our community."



GELMAN UPDATE

On March 12, 2026, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Gelman Sciences site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). According to EPA Regional Administrator Anne Vogel, placement of the site on the NPL will allow federal funding for cleanup oversight, testing, and potential legal expenses. The federal Superfund program is a polluter-pay system. It is expected that the polluter will pay for 100% of the remediation, according to the EPA.

Local officials and members of the Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD) have been advocating for Superfund designation for the site for more than 10 years. EPA representatives met with local officials and CARD members at Washtenaw Community College on April 7. The meeting was organized by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell; Supervisor Jillian Kerry and I attended on behalf of Scio Township.

HISTORY

Gelman Sciences disposed the industrial solvent

1,4-dioxane into ponds at its site on Wagner Rd. from the 1960s to the 1980s as a byproduct of their industrial operations. Over time, the dioxane migrated from the area around the former Gelman site into local aquifers, which are a source for many drinking water wells in Scio Township, creating what is known locally as the Plume. Under the agreement currently in force, Gelman is required to remove some of the dioxane from contaminated sources and conduct pump-and-treat remediation. Gelman is allowed to discharge partially treated water into Honey Creek, which flows into the Huron River.

Scio Township has identified three priorities for action on the Gelman site:

- 1 Getting trigger/cleanup levels for 1,4-dioxane set below the current standard of 7.2 parts per billion (ppb).
- 2 Improved Plume delineation. This issue is particularly significant for Scio Township. Testing of private drinking water wells conducted by the Township in 2021 and 2022 documented dioxane

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

contamination in numerous residences located beyond the assumed northern boundary of the Plume, and closer to the Huron River. These results had not been previously documented.

3 Urging adoption of EPA Method 522 for all drinking water samples and requiring Gelman to implement a comprehensive residential sampling program.

NEXT STEPS

The remedial process begins now and can take several years. EPA representatives will be meeting with community members and local officials. A remedial investigation and feasibility study will be conducted. The goal of the remedial investigation is to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination. A remedial plan will be selected and set forth in the record of decision. **The EPA representatives stated that it is a priority to prevent the Plume from reaching the Huron River.**

CLERK'S COLUMN

The Clerk's Office is charged with managing elections, safekeeping records, and managing the financial accounting of the Township. This spring we have significant updates in all three areas.

Make a plan to vote in the August 4 State Primary Election! **For a list of the statewide, county, and Township races and proposals on the ballot, visit Michigan.gov/vote** or stop by Township Hall to view a sample ballot. Any registered voter may sign up to receive an absentee ballot, and I plan to begin mailing them out to those on Permanent Absent Voter list by Monday June 22. Alternatively, voters may choose to vote in-person during Early Voting, which will be available at Township Hall from Saturday July 25 through Sunday August 2, daily from 9 am to 5 pm. And of course, voters may vote in-person on Election Day at their polling

place. See map on the back of this issue for locations.

In the Clerk's Office we are excited to start implementing the Township's digital records initiative—an effort to digitize the Township's permanent paper records—meeting minutes and land records, for example. We have procured the needed hardware and software and have onboarded temporary Records Clerks to assist with the project. The objective is to make our permanent records both more secure and more accessible.

The Board of Trustees adopted the 2026-27 Capital Plan, Tree Plan, and Annual Budget in March. Now that the fiscal year 2025-26 is over, we are working on the year-end close and preparation for the annual financial statement audit. Last year was the first in many when our audit results contained no deficiencies. We hope

BY JESSICA M. FLINTOFT, CLERK

and expect another such satisfactory result this year. **We plan to hear the results of the audit from our auditors at the Board of Trustees meeting of either August 11 or August 25.**

The Clerk is supported by a full-time Deputy Clerk, a statutorily required and appointed position. Barbara Calleja has served as Deputy Clerk since June 2024, bringing years' experience and skills to serve Scio Township residents. At the end of this May, she is departing this post to bring her talents to serve her home community of Webster Township, where she plans to run for the position of Township Clerk. Thank you Barb for all of your work for Scio residents!

Please reach out to me at any time with questions or suggestions about how I might better serve our community.

SPRING UPDATE – ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We have had a busy year! For those who don't know us, one of the duties of the Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) is to work with the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) to establish which roads will be improved each year within a budget. Scio Township is a General Law Township. This form of government operates with limited built-in funding authority, meaning that any services beyond basic operations must be funded individually, often through voter-approved measures.

The Roads Advisory Committee is currently working to identify and develop a reliable, dedicated source of funding to support ongoing road maintenance and improvements, ensuring our roads remain in excellent condition. More updates will be shared as this work progresses.

RAC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 pm at the Township Hall. Feel free to attend either in person or via Zoom. The

Zoom link is located at the top of every agenda. All agendas are posted on the Township website in the days before the meeting. Find our agendas and minutes from past meetings, and all Township committees, at sciotownshipmi.gov/meetings.

ADVICE FROM THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Gravel-road pothole and mud season is upon us! Please, be patient with WCRC in attending to your roads. It is all weather dependent, but they are making their rounds! To stay safe during pothole season, make sure your tire pressure is at the recommended level, slow down, drive smoothly, and avoid sudden braking. Being aware of loose gravel and obstacles, along with using headlights when necessary, will all contribute to safer driving.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH WCRC

WCRC Fix It allows residents to report a concern with local road conditions. Use this link to access the Fix It page, www.wcroads.org/residents/report-an-issue, download the app, or use the QR code below to access the Fix It page. They are

BY CAROLINE ALTOMARE, RAC MEMBER

very responsive and will keep you updated on the issue.

Visit www.wcroads.org/township-profile/scio-township to stay informed about road projects in Scio Township. The site provides updates on current and upcoming work, schedules for resident meetings, and the option to subscribe to email notifications about projects that matter most to you—along with many other helpful resources.

WCRC also holds a weekly online forum for residents to chat with a road commissioner every Wednesday from 12 to 12:30 pm. You can ask questions and/or get work updates. To attend, go to wcroads.org, hover over "The Board" tab in the menu bar, click "Calendar," then choose the date you wish to attend and RSVP. The Zoom link is provided once you've clicked on a date.



Access WCRC Click It Fix It by pointing your camera phone on this QR code and following the link to their Report-an-Issue page.

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

How do we balance cost, access, and community need when it comes to public transportation in Scio Township? That is the question the Multimodal Transportation Committee has been working to answer since it began meeting in November 2025.

The committee was established to advise, coordinate, and advocate for safe, sustainable, and accessible transportation options that serve the diverse needs of our community. Since its formation, the committee has reviewed service data, financial constraints, and—most importantly—public input. One option discussed in January 2026 was to shift all Township transit services to WAVE (Western-Washtenaw Area

Value Express) and discontinue the Township's contract with AAATA (Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority) for Route 30. While this option would fit within the financial capacity of the Township's public transit fund, it became clear that Route 30 is critically important for many residents.

The Multimodal Transportation Committee has received communications from more than 100 transit advocates and riders explaining how important Route 30 is to their daily lives. Riders depend on Route 30 to get to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, and other essential services. Their feedback has been an important part of the committee's ongoing discussions.

BY RYAN YAPLE, TREASURER

The committee continues to build an understanding of federal and state transit rules and funding, and explore and evaluate options while gathering public input as it works toward recommendations to the Board of Trustees that balance fiscal responsibility with the transportation needs of the community. The Multimodal Transportation Committee meeting schedule can be found at sciotownshipmi.gov/meetings. Public comment via email at MTC@sciotownshipmi.gov, and in-person and remote participation are welcomed and encouraged.

FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone of a couple of things with warmer weather coming our way. Children will be outside more, and animals will be out of hibernation so there is a higher possibility they might be in the roadway more than we have been used to over the last several months. When driving remember to scan several car lengths in front of you and along the side of your path of travel, and slow down in residential areas.

With spring comes rain. Make sure you allow increased stopping distance and apply your brakes slowly and firmly to prevent hydroplaning. **The Sheriff's Office participates in several driving enforcement activities put on by the State of Michigan in the spring. Remember to drive the speed limit and Michigan is a handsfree state.**

Warmer weather means it's time to air out the house and spend more time outdoors. Don't

BY LT. JOHN CRATSENBURG,
WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

forget to shut your windows, doors, and garage doors when you leave your home or go to bed. Don't leave anything valuable in your car and always lock the doors to help prevent theft.

We hope that everyone is safe and has a great spring.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As we come out of this long winter and get back outside, the various laws and regulations governing the burning of leaves/ brush/yard waste often cause confusion. To be clear, the **State of Michigan prohibits the burning of trash, plastics, treated wood, and construction waste everywhere in the state.** Further, EGLE air quality regulations prohibit the burning of leaves and grass clippings. Create a compost pile, mulch them, leave them where they lie or haul them away, but you may not burn them.

With regard to yard waste, which is defined in Township ordinance as "vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or brush or tree trimmings less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter," the following regulations pertain:

- Open burning of yard waste is only permitted on parcels of private property that are 1 acre or more in size.
- Open burning of yard waste is prohibited within 1400 feet of Ann Arbor City or Dexter City borders.
- Open burning is prohibited on parcels with 3 or more homes (such as apartments), as well as commercial or other non-residential properties.

If your desire to burn yard waste meets these criteria, you must obtain a burn permit from the fire department at sciotownshipmi.gov/burnpermit and submit it in person at the Zeeb Road station (705 N Zeeb Rd) or by email at fire@sciotownshipmi.gov. Your permit becomes valid upon submission. We will only respond to your application if we find that your request does not meet the Township's established rules.

Fire Safety. When burning, you should always be 50 feet from any structure, including fences, and have a means to always extinguish your fire with you, such as a hose. You should not burn when it's very dry or when it is windy. Fire can easily jump from a contained pit and spread rapidly. Each year we are called upon to respond to fires that have gotten out of control.

Open burning rules do not apply to other fires, such as bonfires or recreational fires, which are legal under the Scio Township Fire Code. To read the code in its entirety, visit sciotownshipmi.gov/ordinance.

In other news, the 2025 Scio Township Fire Department Annual Report is available at sciotownshipmi.gov/fire. And, with the successful sale of \$13.2M in bonds this March, the construction of Fire Station 2 is moving along as scheduled. Visit sciotownshipmi.gov/

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF,
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

[Station2](#) for regular updates.

Source Michigan DNR:

Remember that nine out of 10 wildfires in Michigan are caused by people, stemming from activities such as burning yard waste, tending a campfire or using off-road vehicles or other equipment that gets hot during use and can ignite dry grass or leaves on the ground.

Whenever you burn:

Keep your burn pile small (no larger than 3 feet in diameter).

Have a hose or other water source nearby.

Never leave a burn pile unattended, even for a moment.

Before you leave your fire, drench it with water, stir the ash and drench again. Make sure ashes are cool to the touch.

NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES

Effective July 1, 2026, the sewer rate is \$14.18 per 1,000 gallons and water rate is \$13.73 per 1,000 gallons.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

UPDATES AND INFORMATION ABOUT TRASH SERVICE

BY JILLIAN KERRY, SUPERVISOR

The Township is currently preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a new waste hauling contract. It will take some time to secure another waste hauler option for customers. We are asking for patience during this process. In the meantime, Priority Waste remains Scio Township's single waste hauler. We are working to support residents and help resolve service and billing issues as efficiently as possible.

MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT

Residents are encouraged to create an online account at PriorityWaste.com to review invoices, make payments, or enroll in autopay.

SUBMITTING COMPLAINTS OR ISSUES

If you experience any of the following, please submit a complaint using the Township's feedback form found at sciotownshipmi.gov/waste.

1. Charges not consistent with the 2026 contract rate (\$24.50/month or \$73.50/quarter)

2. Late fees due to not receiving an invoice
Billing or service-related concerns

3. If you have filed complaints with little to no resolution with Priority Waste, please contact me directly at jkerry@sciotownshipmi.gov, 734-369-9406 (or front desk at 734-369-9400).

DISCOUNTS AND SERVICE OPTIONS

Senior citizens (65+) and disabled veterans are eligible for a 5% discount. Proof of age and/or disability must be submitted to billing@priority-waste.com or by contacting customer service at (855) 927-8365. If enrolled, please confirm your invoice reflects the discounted quarterly rate of \$69.83.

Residents who need to temporarily suspend service (for example, seasonal residents) may do so for a minimum of 30 days and up to 90 days. To request a suspension, download

the "Temporarily Suspend Service" form from sciotownshipmi.gov (Residential Waste and Recycling main page) and submit it to Priority Waste.

NEW SERVICE

New service customers should receive trash and recycling carts at no charge. If you were billed for carts, please submit a complaint to request a refund using the form found at sciotownshipmi.gov/waste.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard waste collection began April 1 and runs through December 15. Place yard waste at the end of your driveway in paper bags or in a clearly labeled bin. "Yard Waste" stickers are available at the front desk in Township Hall.

WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The WCCD is currently surveying Washtenaw County residents on their conservation priorities to prioritize our efforts on what matters most to our residents. Please take the survey at washtenawcd.org/survey. And save the date for the **Native Plant Expo & Marketplace on June 6** at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. This year the WCCD Board of Director elections will also take place during this event.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND WHY DO I WANT ONE?

A conservation easement involves the sale of the development rights on a property, while the owner retains all other ownership rights and the property remains on the tax roll. Owners of farmland permanently protected with a perpetual conservation easement (CE) now have explicit statutory access to **State of Michigan tax credits** by virtue of a set of six bills ushered through the legislature by State Senator Sue Shink and recently signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Any landowner whose property meets the State definition of farmland (40 acres or greater with 51% in agriculture use, and smaller properties that generate at least \$200/acre/year in gross annual income from farming) who conveys a CE has access to the State tax credits. We hope this will provide an additional incentive for permanent land conservation in Scio Township and beyond.

PARKS IN FULL BLOOM

This spring, Scio Parks natural areas staff have undertaken various measures to evaluate and monitor salamander populations across the Township. This includes installing a 400-foot drift fence to reduce roadkill, night-shining vernal pools, and using mesh nets in vernal pools. **Efforts have been successful so far, with six species documented and over 100 total observations.** These efforts help inform future management plans and population surveys for some of our most secretive animal species.

Parks staff hosted a vernal pool hike on Saturday, March 14, which was successful and fun. Armed with traps, dip nets, and flashlights, participants spotted a number of salamander

species at Van Curler Nature Preserve! They were able to learn about salamanders and observe them up close in their natural breeding habitat. Both egg masses and adults were seen, in addition to some resident aquatic invertebrate species. These wooded ephemeral wetlands are full of life this time of year! (All wildlife is handled with proper training and permitting when required by state or federal law. Please only interact with wildlife with training or the supervision of an experienced wildlife professional.)

We are excited to announce the beginning of our Volunteer Workdays for 2026! Starting in April, we are hosting two workdays per month—one Saturday and the following Wednesday. Through our volunteer workdays, we hope to create

BY NOAH HUBER AND
MURPHY HARRINGTON,
TOWNSHIP PARKS DEPARTMENT

opportunities for the community to connect with Scio Parks and Preserves, contribute to their care, and share in the responsibility of keeping them welcoming for everyone. **Our workdays will focus on invasive species control, litter removal, and trail improvements.** Please RSVP to let us know you're coming by visiting our Eventbrite page—just go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Scio Outside Volunteer Events.

For more information about upcoming programs and workdays, please visit [Sciotownshipmi.gov/ScioOutside!](https://sciotownshipmi.gov/ScioOutside!)

TOWNSHIP HALL HVAC UPDATE

Back in 2024, the Scio Township Board of Trustees began looking into solutions to the heating and cooling system (HVAC) in the original portion of Township Hall. The 2019 addition housing the Utilities Department has HVAC units that have useful life expectancy of another 8-12 years. By contrast, the original building was operating with a system installed in 1999. As it was well past its expected life cycle, and repairs were becoming increasingly expensive, planning for the cost of a new HVAC system began to seem inevitable.

Spearheaded by Planning Chair Jan Culbertson, a task force was formed to investigate the various options for replacement. **It was found that due to changes in building codes, and the age of the existing ductwork, replacing the old rooftop units with similar (gas-fired) ones would not be possible.** Given the Board resolution to achieve Carbon Neutrality in Township Operations by 2030, a study

comparing several HVAC systems, their relative first cost, operational costs and greenhouse gas reduction, the Board decided to go in the direction of a geo-exchange heat pump system. Culbertson explained: "Geo-exchange (geothermal) systems are renowned for their longevity, with underground loop fields typically lasting more than 50 years... This exceeds the lifespan of traditional HVAC systems, which usually last 15-20 years."

Installing underground loop fields greatly increases the upfront costs of geo-exchange systems but fortunately the Township is eligible for "direct pay" reimbursement from the federal government for 40 percent of the total cost of the system, bringing the price tag in line with a gas-fired system. Given the improved efficiency of the new system and its expected longevity, the Board became convinced of the benefits of going with this type of system, which is all electric, powered by renewable energy from DTE's MIGREEN Power Program,

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

is designed with more zones for improved comfort, and includes an efficient ventilation system to improve indoor air quality. By removing two rooftop units, there is also more space for future rooftop solar.

With installation completed early this cold spring, staff has had plenty of time to experience the heating capabilities of the new system before the air conditioning gets turned on this summer. "Next steps will be staff user training on the geo-exchange heating and cooling system, which is controlled by thermostats set up in multiple zones throughout the old part of Township Hall," explained Project Manager Chris Cheng. **"After nearly a year of planning and construction, the new HVAC system is now in operation at Scio Township Hall.** Special thanks to the residents and employees of Scio Township who have been very patient and understanding while these improvements were being made."

YOUR MONEY MATTERS

BY KATHLEEN BRANT, TRUSTEE

This is a continuation of the Money Matters series to highlight significant financial decisions made by the Township Board. Every officer of the Township is charged with the fiduciary duty to manage taxpayer dollars wisely.

JANUARY 2026 - FIRE STATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND

Scio Township posted \$13.2M in bonds to pay for the cost of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping a new fire station to be located on Township-owned land on Wagner Road near Liberty. "I am thankful to the Board of Trustees and Township residents for their support for this important public safety project," says Township Fire Chief Andy Houde. This new fire station is located to better serve the largest concentration of residents, in the southeast quadrant of the Township, reducing response times and improving service.

FEBRUARY 2026 - REPLACEMENT OF THE AGING HVAC SYSTEM (WELL PAST IT'S EXPECTED 15-YEAR LIFE SPAN)

With grants and direct pay, the geothermal choice was estimated at a final cost of approximately \$904,800, after rebates of \$603,200 from the federal government and \$100,000 from EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy). The geothermal system has an estimated 50-year life span. It is worth noting that its equipment is manufactured in the US and is estimated to reduce the building's greenhouse gas emissions by 61 percent.

MARCH 2026 - ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET (APRIL 1, 2026 TO MARCH 31, 2027)

General Fund estimated revenue \$6,574,280.
General Fund estimated expenditures \$6,921,416.
When it appears that expenditures shall exceed appropriations, the Chief Administrative Officer (the

Supervisor) or the Fiscal Officer (the Clerk) shall present to the Township Board recommendations to prevent expenditures from exceeding available revenues or budgeted appropriations for the current fiscal year. Such recommendations shall include proposals for reducing appropriations, increasing revenues, utilizing reserves, or a combination of the same. The anticipated difference is managed by drawing on the healthy fund balance accrued in past years, when revenues far exceeded expenditures.

If any of these topics are of interest to you and you would like to further discuss I am available via email at kbrant@sciotownshipmi.gov, and in person for 30 minutes before the start of Board meetings, held at 6 pm every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Find the schedule for Board meetings and all official committees of the Township at sciotownshipmi.gov/meetings.

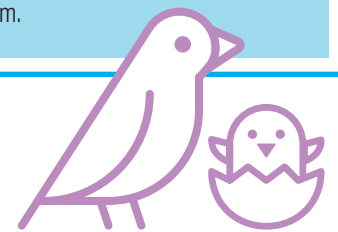
The single best way to prevent measles is to be vaccinated.

Make sure your family is up to date.

For more information visit CDC.gov/measles

WINGED WEDNESDAY

Michigan is home to so many interesting birds! Sign up for "Winged Wednesday" text updates from Michigan.gov/birding to learn more about the birds moving through Michigan and the best state parks to see them.



THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

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

To get up-to-date information on measles outbreaks in our area, visit Washtenaw.org/measles.

SPRING INTO ACTION AT DEXTER SENIOR CENTER

The snow may be gone, but activity at Dexter Senior Center continues to pile up. With membership nearing 1,000, more of our community is participating in programs, services, and events designed to support active and independent living than ever before.

This spring and early summer, members can take part in **creative opportunities** including flower arranging, sewing, junk journaling, watercolor landscape workshops, origami, canvas painting, and card making. Intergenerational programming will continue with upcoming projects alongside local elementary students.

Our **fitness schedule** includes more than 10 weekly classes. A new Pilates mobility class has been added, and line dancing, tai chi, walking club outings, and square and round dancing are returning as the weather improves.

Educational programming includes language workshops in German, Spanish, and French. Presentations this season cover topics such as retirement planning, investment safety and fraud

prevention, assisted living decision-making, caregiver financial planning, and global travel and culture.

Members can also enjoy **live music and cultural programming**, including spring concerts, performances from local ensembles, and a new choir sing-along opportunity led by University of Michigan retirees.

Technology support will be available through both drop-in sessions with local high school students and structured workshops offered in partnership with Washtenaw Community College. Wellness services including massage, reflexology, and acupuncture are also being offered.

Social programming continues to expand with the addition of a new Bunco group, ongoing bingo with community sponsors, and an active schedule of day trips and travel presentations. Upcoming outings include theater experiences, local tours, and cultural excursions.

Caregivers and individuals experiencing memory loss are supported through **Dementia Friendly**

BY ANNA PEKRUL,
DSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Days, which provide lunch, activities, education, and connection for care partners. Therapeutic programming such as music and art therapy continues to be incorporated.

Dexter Senior Center's **Meals on Wheels** program provides home-delivered meals Monday through Friday, with additional deliveries on Fridays to help cover the weekend. Individuals aged 60 and older who are mostly homebound, or caring for someone who is, may qualify.

Looking ahead, the Center will host its first **Senior Resource Fair** in June, bringing together local service providers and community organizations.

Dexter Senior Center is grateful for Scio Township's partnership in supporting programs and services that benefit older adults in the community! Membership is just \$35 per year. Visit us at Dexter Senior Center, 2740 Baker Road, call 734-426-7737, or explore upcoming programs online at dexterseniors.org.

WELCOME CAITLIN SCHARER, RESIDENTIAL ASSESSOR!

The Township Assessing Department is delighted to welcome the services of Caitlin Scharer. Caitlin comes to Scio Township from the Charter Township of Madison, Michigan, a few miles north of the Ohio border, where she was Jane-of-all-trades for 8 years. Responsible for everything from payroll to elections to assessing and answering the office phones, Caitlin nevertheless felt the lack of opportunities for advancement in the small township offices where she was the only full-time employee. She actually got into assessing by a combination of her natural tendency to always be learning, and the unexpected departure of the assessor from her former workplace. She took one class in order to help fill the gap and then went on to earn her certification as an Assessing Officer.



Hired in as residential assessor this winter, Caitlin says having only one job is something she appreciates about coming to work at Scio Township. **"I like it here!" she adds, noting that having a set schedule helps her balance her role as a mom with her**

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

work. Caitlin loves the opportunities to learn here in the Township, working alongside long-experienced assessors Andrea Garrett and Becky Baiocco, who are always willing to answer a question or double-check her work. "I just want to be a sponge to their knowledge," she says.

Caitlin's home life is busy running after a 10-year-old state-level wrestling champion son and a 12-year-old artsy daughter, so she enjoys her hour-long commute to and from Scio. After all those years in Madison, Caitlin is excited to get to know the area and Scio residents. "I'm hoping to create the same great relationship with residents in Scio that I developed in Madison." Welcome to Scio Caitlin, we're so glad to have you!

SCIO FLYERS: ELEVATING STEM EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 1988, Scio Flyers has called Township Hall Park home, providing a welcoming space for flight, engineering, and teamwork. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to advance STEM education by merging aviation principles with hands-on learning. **By exploring model aircraft and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), we help students develop the critical thinking and troubleshooting skills needed in today's technical industries.**

With the 2026 season beginning, we are excited to invite the community to the field. Our goal is to introduce anyone with an interest in aviation

to the hobby. **Starting April 29, 2026, we host flight training every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. These sessions are open to the public; you don't need to be a member to show up and fly.** Our experienced pilots provide the equipment and "buddy box" instructions to get you in the air safely.

Since 2024, UAS4STEM has served as our core education program. This national competition challenges students to build, program, and fly drones to complete complex autonomous flight missions. While the current competition cycle is underway, we are always looking for students (ages 11-19) and adult mentors to get involved. There is no initial membership requirement to

BY JIM HARTWELL, SCIO FLYERS PRESIDENT

participate; in fact, students who join the team receive a full club membership. Our experienced mentors work directly with all participants to ensure every student learns to operate safely and confidently, making it easy to transition from the classroom to the flight line.

Whether you want to learn to fly on Wednesdays or help mentor our competitive team, Scio Flyers is here to inspire the next generation of engineers and pilots. For more details or to contact us about joining, please visit Scioflyers.org. We look forward to seeing you at the park!

GET SEPTIC SMART

- 1 Get your septic system inspected by a licensed service provider every 1-3 years, and pumped out every 3-5 years.
- 2 Learn the signs of a failing septic system and find resources at HRWC.org/septicystems.
- 3 Look into getting a low-interest loan to repair or replace your failing septic through the Michigan Saves program, created by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Learn more at michigansaves.org/septic.

COUNTY CLEANUP DAYS

Washtenaw County residents can recycle and dispose of electronics, household hazardous waste, bulky waste, appliances, and scrap tires at any of these locations. Materials from businesses, government agencies, non-profits, or other organizations are not accepted. Registration is required. Registration opens 6 weeks before each event. For more details and registration, visit washtenaw.org/cleanup.

June 27 in
NorthfieldTownship

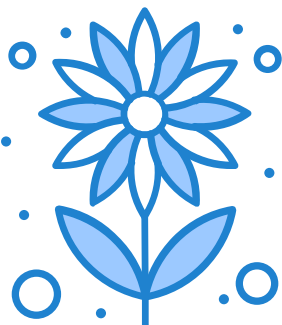
August 8 in
City of Ypsilanti

November 14 in
Scio Township

Free to Washtenaw County residents. Not tax-funded. Donations are welcome to help cover operational costs.

SAVE A LIFE

Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin and fentanyl. If you or someone you know is at increased risk for opioid overdose, especially those experiencing opioid use disorder (OUD), you should carry naloxone and keep it at home, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Carrying naloxone is no different than carrying an epinephrine auto-injector (commonly known by the brand name EpiPen) for someone with allergies. Having naloxone available allows bystanders to help prevent a fatal overdose and save lives. The Township has a free Naloxone dispensing machine in the lobby of Township Hall, open to the public during regular office hours, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.



Scio Food Waste Challenge

May 18-22, 2026 | Free to Join at ZeroWaste.Org/Scio



Scan to join and claim your first 100 points!

Join the free challenge this spring! Learn ways to reduce kitchen waste and spend less on groceries. You'll earn points toward winning prizes all while helping Scio reach its sustainability goals!

- 5 emails with helpful tips
- Join on your own or make a team
- Prizes from local businesses

PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES

"As we enter severe weather season, it's important for every Michigander to prepare," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "I encourage every Michigander to take time now to make a plan, build an emergency kit, and sign up for local emergency alerts." Scio Township participates in the Washtenaw County emergency alert system run by Enbridge. Residents can easily sign up for a range of available notifications, from weather and traffic to boil-water and toxic spill emergencies. Alerts can be received via text, call, or email. Review information and sign up at Washtenaw.org/alerts. Find resources for making emergency plans at Mi.gov/Michiganprepares.

UPDATE ON FOOD WASTE COMPOST PILOT

We have 160 registered participants! My Green Michigan is emptying our food-waste collection bins on a weekly basis. The bins are available behind Township Hall 24/7 to drop off table scraps. As of April 30, participants have diverted more than 8,800 pounds of food waste from local landfills, which is the equivalent of 58 urban tree seedlings grown for 10 years. Find out how you can participate at sciotownshipmi.gov/compost.

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 Yapple
ryapple@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
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
agarrett@sciotownshipmi.gov



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

Postmaster: leave with current resident

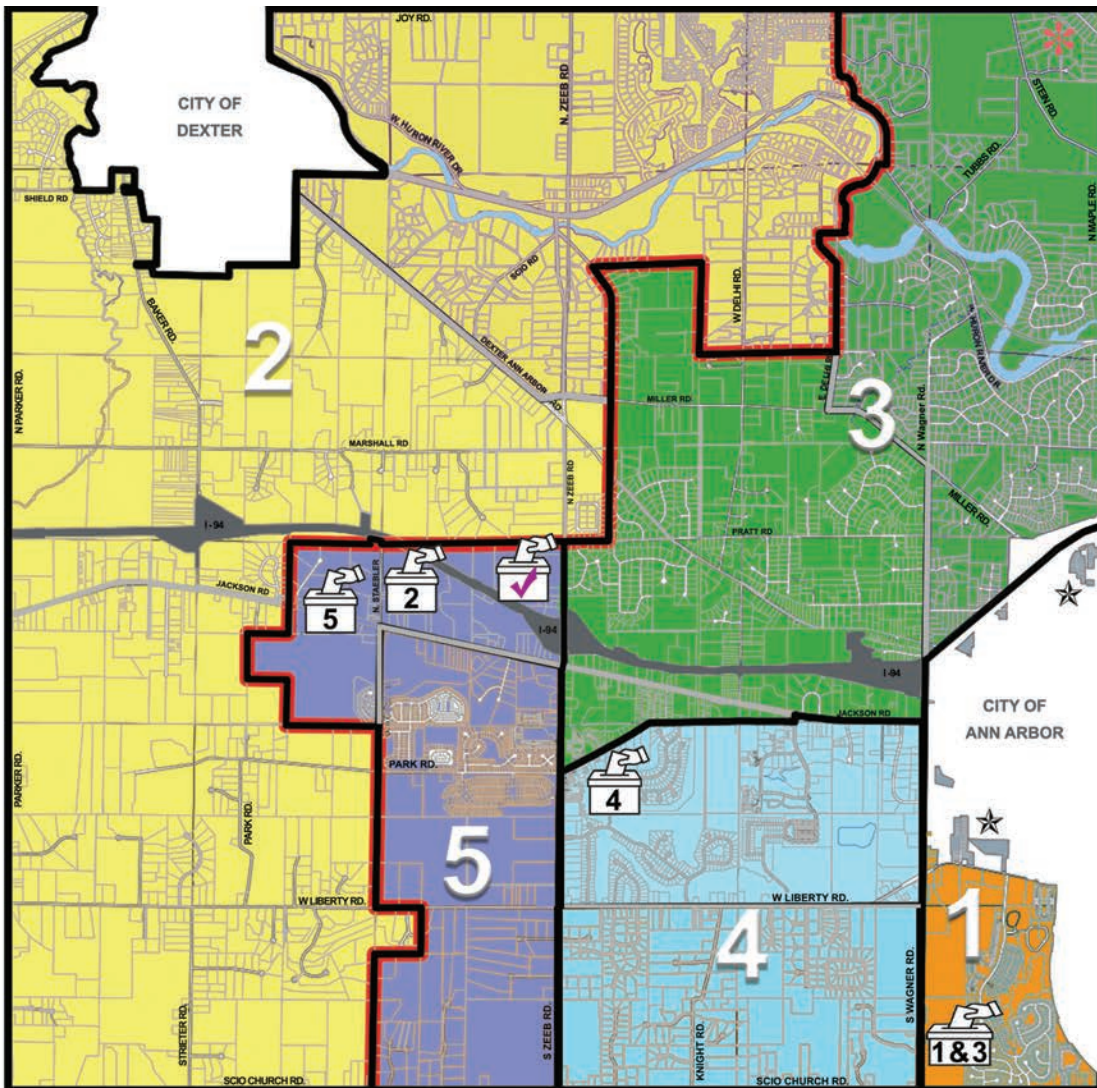
***** ECRWSSEDDM *****

Postal Customer

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANN ARBOR, MI
PERMIT NO. 124

To Scio Neighbor

SCIO PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES



ELECTION DAY VOTING

Aug. 4, 7 AM - 8 PM

PRECINCTS 1 & 3
Washtenaw Inter. School District
1819 South Wagner Road

PRECINCT 2
Kiwanis Club
100 North Staebler Road

PRECINCT 4
Polo Fields Main Club House
5200 Polo Fields Drive

PRECINCT 5
Scio Farms Community Club House
6655 Jackson Road

EARLY VOTING JULY 25 - AUG. 2

Scio Township Hall
827 Zeeb Road
OR
Washtenaw County LRC
4135 Washtenaw Avenue

POLLING PLACE

PRECINCT BOUNDARY

SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE DUE TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE BY 8 PM ON ELECTION DAY, AUGUST 4, 2026