

Scio Township

Fall 2012

COMMUNITY REPORT

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY SPAULDING CLARK, SUPERVISOR

Township Updates

This month, a few comments on current issues.

Township Website

The Township has completed its effort to develop a new and revised website, which can be found at: <http://www.sciotownship.org>. The re-design of our website was an effort that coincided with a project spearheaded by the Scio Economic Development Advisory Committee, which was charged by the Township Board to look at the issue of encouraging appropriate business development within the Township. The EDAC put significant time and energy into the effort, and one result was a short 2-minute video on the advantages of the business climate in Scio. The video was the product of a local company, Hile Design LLC, and can be viewed on the Business in Scio page of the Township's website: <http://www.sciotownship.org/business-in-scio/>.

Who is driving the decisions on local road projects and maintenance?

As you're taking a leisurely drive on a lovely day in Michigan, you may have experienced a rough patch of road or questioned why the speed limit is the rate it is for that particular stretch of road. Although the road may be located within a township, did you know that the township does not have authority over that road?

Most residents do not realize that local roads, including construction and maintenance of these roads, are under the

sole jurisdiction of the county where the road is located. Since the 1930s, townships have had little road authority, and they receive no transportation funding (Public Act 51 of 1951). However, over 95% of townships in Michigan do contribute money to their county's road commission. In fact, it is common for counties to strongly urge townships to contribute to roads at a high level of matching funds.

About 10 years ago, many counties requested a 50-50 match from townships for construction, repair and maintenance of local roads. Due to changes in funding over the last decade, it is now common for counties to ask townships to pick up 75% of the cost in order to receive a 25% funding match from the county. In some cases, counties require that 100% of the cost of the project be funded by the township. During the past year, Scio Township has expended money on local roads separately and with matching funds from the Washtenaw County Road Commission, providing dust control, minor road maintenance, and in some instances, modestly assisting residents who have wanted their own roads improved though the use of special assessment districts.

Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided significant funding for roads, that money is primarily being spent on federal highways and roads under state jurisdiction rather than local roads. Meanwhile, transportation funding at the state level has not increased, and there has been a sharp decrease in state

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

BY CARL FERCH, STFD FIRE CHIEF

25th Annual STFD Halloween Party

The Scio Township Fire Department will be hosting its 25th Annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 28, 2012 from 1:00 to 4:00. This community-oriented event is planned and presented as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating.

Prizes, games and entertainment

Each child will be given an opportunity to select their favorite treats from a wide assortment of goodies. Colors the Clown will be on hand to delight and entertain the children with magic tricks and balloon animals. She is

also bringing the ever-popular petting zoo that features an array of both domestic and exotic animals. Other entertainment attractions include the Giant Slide, a Moon Walk and assorted games. Refreshments, consisting of seasonal favorites like donuts and apple cider, will be served throughout the afternoon.

As always, this event is funded by donations received from the local business community and individual supporters of the fire department. These donations are used exclusively to purchase treats and prizes and to defray the cost of refreshments, supplies, and entertainment.



be aware of the Township's limited role in road projects and maintenance

From *The Supervisor's Desk* continued from page 1

shared revenue to local units of government. The result? Local roads are being shortchanged.

While funding of roads at the local level is likely to be an ongoing issue for Michigan for some time to come, it is important for residents to be aware of the Township's limited role in road projects and maintenance. Issues related to local roads are best addressed by the county road commission, which has the both the authority and responsibility to handle these matters.

Countywide Transit

We have reached the final stages of the issue of countywide bus service, with the AATA's metamorphosis into a countywide transit authority. Still unknown is which governmental entities will participate in this attempt to provide countywide transportation, and what the final entity and representation will look like. Once each governmental entity has determined whether they will opt-out of the ar-

range, there will be a voter referendum on the funding of the new transit authority. At the time of this writing, it is impossible to speculate how many communities will remain in the new authority and how many will opt-out. There remain unanswered questions, so check to your local newspaper for additional information.

Fire Department consolidation

Concerning the attempt to consolidate the Scio Fire Department with the Dexter Area-wide Fire Department (covering Dexter Township, the Village of Dexter and Webster Township), there remain too many new questions on the part of the other parties to be able to discern the future of the effort. Given that we are in the midst of local elections, it may be a while before we can get to the point of a final decision on the part of the other parties to this discussion. Again, check your local newspaper or this column, for additional information.

BY MARTY MAYO, CHAIR, EDAC

Scio Township Launches New Website and Promotional Video

On September 26, Scio Township hosted a breakfast event to celebrate the launch of its new website: <http://www.sciotownship.org>. Before a group of 50 Scio officials and business people, Spaulding Clark, Township Supervisor, explained that the Township is reaching out to its constituents with easy to access information about living and doing business in Scio.

The website was designed by Annie Wolock of Keystone Media. Content for the site was prepared by Township officials and committee chairs and pulled together by Marty Mayo, a Township resident and chair of the Economic Development Action Committee (EDAC).

Along with the new website, the Township also unveiled a promotional video touting Scio's surprising business community, which can be viewed at the Business in Scio page: <http://www.sciotownship.org/business-in-scio/> or on YouTube at: <http://youtu.be/fU0xvVQiG0>.

Scio's businesses are surprising both in numbers – more than 900 – and in the innovation and creativity they represent. The video was designed by Hile Design, whose owner Dave Hile is a member of the Economic Development Action Committee. EDAC sponsored this video to spread

the word about the many advantages Scio's cool and useful companies have enjoyed by making their home in Scio's "creative corridor" along Jackson Boulevard.

The Economic Development Action Committee believes that Scio is one of Washenaw County's "best kept secrets" – it has more than 16,000 residents plus an active industrial/commercial community, but many people living in the Ann Arbor area do not even know where Scio is and can not pronounce its name (sigh-oh).

The Township is reaching out to its constituents with easy to access information about living and doing business in Scio.



Election November 6

Don't forget to **VOTE** November 6

This is a big election year for everyone, and we are really looking forward to your participation at the polls this year. You can plan to vote at your regular polling place in November, but if you have forgotten what your regular polling place is for your precinct, you can easily check it on-line. Most of your questions can be answered by checking the Secretary of State's "Voter Information Center" or the Township's newly redesigned website: <http://www.sciotownship.org>. The State's website address is: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>. If you are interested in finding out if your ballot has been sent or received by the Clerk, the State's website will provide that information. If you don't have computer access, you can always call the Township's front desk at 734.369.9400.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with this year's ballot – it is a long one. A sample can be viewed at the Secretary of State's website at the Voter Information Center. We have sample ballots at the Scio Township Hall, but only 10 for each ballot style (precinct) and we are trying to reserve them for those who do not have computer access.

Don't forget to register

October 9, 2012 was the last day to register to vote in the 2012 November General Election. If you have a change of address please be sure to update your information with the Secretary of State's office, or here at the Township offices as soon as possible. You only have to register once (unless you move) and you can check your registration status by going to: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>. Address changes must be made within 6 months of your permanent move.



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LPC Celebrates its 100th Regular Meeting

See the Land Preservation Commission page of the Township's new website

In November of this year, the Scio Township Land Preservation Commission (LPC) will hold its 100th regular meeting. Formed in 2004 after the passage of the Scio land preservation millage, the LPC has met at least monthly ever since. Along with special meetings, these Scio resident-volunteers have met to discuss preserving important natural and agricultural lands in our township nearly 120 times. Commissioners have also visited every one of the 55 nominated properties in order to properly evaluate them. LPC members enjoy and are truly committed to their charge!

Scio's preservation millage has been a success

Together with contributions from landowners and local, state and federal agencies, funds from the Scio land preservation millage have now permanently preserved 608 acres on 11 properties (see map of Protected Properties on below right). These farms and open space properties are

forever protected from development, which will allow future generations to enjoy locally grown agricultural products and the beauty of our Township. In addition, Scio millage funds helped purchase two new popular County preserves--the Fox Science Preserve and the Scio Church Woods Nature Preserve--and provided public access to two other beautiful properties. Two more properties will be protected in the next few months. The Scio Land Preservation Commission has been able to leverage your millage dollars and obtain matching funding for each of these acquisitions. In fact, only 38% of the total costs of protecting these properties came from Scio land preservation funds (see report). We think it is safe to call our land preservation millage a great success! For further detail on the properties now protected by our land preservation millage, see the Land Preservation Commission page of the Township's new website: <http://www.sciotownship.org/boards-commissions/land-preservation-commission/>.

Thank you to all involved

I would personally like to thank Scio residents and all past and current LPC members for their contributions to the Township and land preservation in general. My thanks go to Bruce Manny, the founding chair of the LPC, and Allison Arscott, Jim Crowfoot, Leslie Desmond, Alec Jerome, David Read, as well as past LPC members Dea Armstrong, Dick DeLong, Nancy Hedberg, Kathy Knol and Chuck Ream. And lastly, thanks to our dedicated consultant, Barry Lonik, who has skillfully supported each of our efforts since before meeting #1!

SCIO TOWNSHIP LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION Quarterly report to the Board of Trustees as of 9/30/12

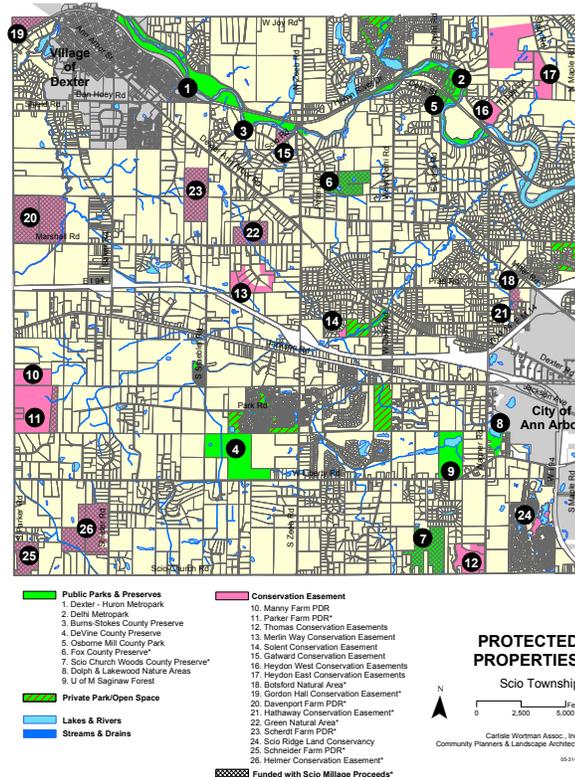
	This quarter	Total
Applications Rec'd	6	50
Sites Visited	6	50
Sites Rated	6	50
Sites Recommended to BOT	0	12
Total value of property	\$860,000	\$9,837,032
Scio cost for property	\$504,600	\$3,817,646
Amount from other sources	\$355,400	\$6,019,386
Sites Accepted by BOT	0	12
PDR or Acquisition Complete	0	11
Sites Not Recommended	0	9
Sites Action Pending	0	23
Completed Projects		
Acquisition Costs to Date	\$860,000	\$9,837,032
Scio Costs to Date	\$504,600	\$3,817,646
% of Total Est. Millage Funds Used (\$6M)	8%	64%
% of Acquisition Costs Borne by Scio	59%	39%

	Recommended	Acquired	\$ Spent	% of Total \$ Spent
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Property Types	Recommended	Acquired	\$ Spent	% of Total \$ Spent
Agriculture	5	5	\$2,851,896	75%
Open Space	4	4	513,000	13%
Park/Preserve	3	2	452,750	12%
TOTAL	12	11	\$3,817,646	100%

Dollar Amounts	Recommended	Acquired	\$ Spent	% of Total \$ Spent
Agriculture	5	5	\$2,851,896	75%
Open Space/no access	2	2	0	0%
Open Space w/ Access	2	2	513,000	13%
Park/Preserve	3	2	452,750	12%
TOTAL			\$3,817,646	100%

Ownership	Recommended	Acquired	\$ Spent	% of Total \$ Spent
Development Rights	9	9	\$3,364,896	88%
Scio				
Agriculture	0	0	0	0%
Open Space	0	0	0	0%
Park/Preserve	1	0	35,000	1%
Other gov't entity	2	2	417,750	11%
TOTAL			\$3,817,646	100%





Get involved in your community

Scio Township Information

Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400; info@twp.scio.mi.us
visit us at: www.twp.scio.mi.us

Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Utility Department Hours:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Utilities emergency: (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration: (734) 369-9350

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall. E-mail sent to townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

Township Board of Trustees

Spaulding Clark, Supervisor
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk
Donna Palmer, Treasurer
Richard DeLong, Trustee
Christine Green, Trustee
Jack Knowles, Trustee
David Read, Trustee

Scio Township Department Heads

Carl Ferch, Fire Chief
Scott Martin – Utilities Director
James Merte – Assessing

Other Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff's Department,
Zeeb Road Sub-Station (734) 994-8105
County Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900

The Scio Township Community Report

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Photographer
David Read

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www.ewashtenaw.org

Water Resources Commissioner:

(734) 222-6860; drains@ewashtenaw.org

County Road Commission

(734) 761-1500; wcrcc@wccroads.org

County Commissioners:

District 1 – Rob Turner
(734) 341-6612; turnerr@ewashtenaw.org
District 9 – Leah Gunn
(734) 663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org

State Information:

www.michigan.org

State Representative

District 52 – Mark Ouimet
(517) 373-0828; markouimet@house.mi.gov

State Senator:

District 18 – Rebekah Warren
(517) 373-2406; senwarren@senate.michigan.gov

Governor:

Rick Snyder
(517) 373-3400; rick.snyder@michigan.gov

Federal Information:

www.usa.gov

U.S. Representatives:

District 7 – Tim Walberg
(202) 225-6276; e-mail via www.walberg.house.gov
District 15 – John Dingell
(202) 225-4071; www.house.gov/dingell

U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow
(202) 224-4822; senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Carl Levin
(202) 224-6221; e-mail via www.levin.senate.gov

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**This is the only
Scio-specific
ballot proposal
this year**

BY IRWIN MARTIN, CHAIR, LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Land Preservation Renewal on November Ballot

Remember to vote on November 6th

Scio Township's land preservation millage passed in November 2004 with nearly 75% of Scio voters in support. The original 0.5 mill assessment expires after 2013. The Scio Board of Trustees has elected to place the millage for renewal on the November 2012 ballot to secure funding now for future preservation efforts. This millage, if passed, will assess homeowners 0.4942 mills (reduced by the "Headlee amendment") and run from 2014 through 2023. This is the only Scio-specific ballot proposal this year and it may be found on the back of your ballots and is called simply, "Farmland and Open Space Land Preservation Millage Proposal." Please remember to vote your choice on this proposal.

