

Scio Township

Spring 2017

COMMUNITY REPORT

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY JACK KNOWLES, SUPERVISOR

Get involved with your Township

Six Months! It hardly seems that long, but last year's November election brought a few changes to the Township Board. First, two new Trustees were elected, Kathy Knol and Irwin Martin. Both have prior experience in Township activities, Kathy as former Township Clerk and Irwin as a long-time member of our Land Preservation Committee. Second, I was elected as your Township Supervisor, following eight years of serving as a Trustee. The remaining Board consists of incumbents Clerk Nancy Hedberg, Treasurer Donna Palmer and Trustees Christine Green and David Read. This is an outstanding group of people, all dedicated to maintaining Scio as a desirable community, and I look forward to working with them over the next four years.

I would be remiss if I did not send a heartfelt 'Thank You' to two long time outgoing Board members, Spaulding Clark and Dick Delong. Both served the Township in a number of different capacities including Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Trustee and Supervisor, each for multiple terms. Much of what we all like and enjoy about Scio can be attributed to the efforts of these two, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts.

In addition to the Board, we are fortunate to have a new Township Manager, Bryce Kelley. Bryce was hired by the previous Board late last summer, and had worked in a number of Wayne County communities, though he resides locally. He has settled right in, gotten up to date on our systems and processes and we are fortunate to have him. Finally, Bryce and the Board are all backed up by a friendly, capable and supportive Township staff and numerous boards and committees, all of whom work hard at making Scio a better place for all of us.

Gelman / Pall Plume

- Charter Township Status
- Preferred Vendor for Rubbish/Recycling
- Improve Communications with Residents
- Website Update
- New Utility Department Building
- Zeeb Road Pathway – Phase 2
- Medical Marijuana - ordinance changes due to the new State statutes.
- Land Preservation - potential development of recreation facilities

Would you like to get involved?

There are a number of Boards and Committees at the Township that are comprised of volunteers from the Township. The more well-known ones are the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Downtown Development Authority, Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Land Preservation Committee. However there are others also, and we are always on the lookout for residents that would like to participate and get active in the workings of the Township. We keep a list of interested parties, and when an opening occurs, we go to the list. If you have an interest, please check out the list of Boards and Commissions on the Township website, and send a letter expressing your interest and a copy of your resume to Bryce Kelley for inclusion on the list.

Please note that your Township Board meets two times each month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 7:00 pm, Township Hall. At each meeting there are two 'Citizen Comment' agenda items (one each at the beginning and the end of the meeting), which permits anyone to publicly state an opinion and/or ask questions about agenda items, or whatever other concerns may be on your mind. This is an excellent time for citizens to get the attention of the Board for their particular issue. We welcome and encourage Scio residents to attend a meeting to meet your Board members and to see how the Township functions.

Get involved!

Planning for the future

The Board has been hard at work, already having two lengthy 'work' sessions, to address both immediate concerns and to prioritize and discuss a long list of items that the Township will be dealing with over the next few years. Some of the current issues are hot topics, and are well covered by the different news media. Others are not as well known, or as immediately important but, are on our radar for study and action. The current list of the more immediate issues include:

Election May 2

We're looking forward to a much calmer year on the election front in 2017! We are planning for an election on May 2 to decide on a proposal from the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The other regularly scheduled elections dates would be August 8 and November 7. But they will only be held if there are any ballot proposals submitted in the appropriate timeframe.

Your Precinct

In Scio Township, we have two school districts, two US Congressional Districts, two State House Representative Districts, and two County Commissioner Districts. Because of this, most of our eight precincts have two ballot styles and some have three. This required that we have on hand up to 23 different ballot styles for each election and that our Election Inspectors be sure to give you the correct ballot style when you came in to vote. This adds time and needless complications to the voting process. Also, we had to stockpile enough Absentee Ballots (remember 23 different ballot styles) to ensure that everyone who applied could be sent the correct ballot. In addition, the minimum order per style is 50 ballots. For some of the ballot styles, we were ordering 50 ballots for 1 or 2 voters! In order to eliminate this issue, we have changed our Precinct Boundaries to more closely align with the various districts. As a result, we have reduced the number of ballot styles in the eight precincts from 23 to 11...most of the precincts will now have only 1 ballot style. (Do you know an election worker? Can you hear them cheering?) These changes have also balanced the number of voters in each precinct. By law, a precinct can have a maximum of 2,999 voters. Previously, Precinct 2 had only 1,025 voters and Precinct 7 had almost 2,700. With the new precinct boundaries, our voters are spread more evenly between the precincts.

New Voter ID Cards

Because of the re-alignment of our precinct boundaries, every voter will receive a new voter ID card in the mail once the changes have been approved at the State Board of Elections. In fact, by the time you read this, you will have already received yours. Please check your card, note your

polling place, and tuck it in your wallet for safekeeping. If you lose it, you can always check where to vote at the state's Michigan Voter Information Center, vote.michigan.gov/mvic/ Most importantly, your Congressional, State House, County Commissioner and School District are still the same. Only your Precinct and Polling Place may have changed.

Temporary Change in Polling Place for May School Election

The State Board of Elections allows us to temporarily consolidate voting precincts for certain types of elections – for example, school board or single ballot proposals. The pending election in May fits that category so we will be consolidating our precincts. In addition to the above-mentioned new voter ID card, some of you will be receiving a notice of temporary change in precinct. Please take note of it and remember it is only for the pending May election.

Are you a 'Snowbird'?

Every winter a number of absentee voter ballot applications are returned to us because voters on the Permanent AV list have headed south and forgotten to let us know. If you plan to be gone, please call the Township offices to tell us where your application should be sent.

Deputy Clerk

My Deputy Clerk, David Read, has asked me to look for a replacement for him. He would like to retire (again) and, with the light election schedule, this would be a good year to train a replacement. The duties include answering voters' questions (both in person and on the phone), ensuring that both our overseas and local voters receive their absentee ballots on time, tracking changes in our voting population and assisting the clerk on Election Day. This is a part-time position of approximately 15 -20 hours per "non-election month" and up to 60 – 80 hours per "election month". There is some required training - both classroom and on-line – and computer skills are plus. If you would like more information about this position, please feel free to contact me by phone (734-369-9400) or email (nhedberg@sciotownship.org).

Education for new taxpayers

The 2016 Tax Year is over. Things went well, but there are always a few frustrating times. I want to do a bit of education for new taxpayers and as a reminder for those of us that have been around awhile.

Problems occur when you re-finance

Tax bills are mailed twice a year – the last weeks in June and November so you receive them in the first weeks of July and December. The mortgage refinancing and the paying off of

your mortgage causes many problems. We do not receive notification from you, the owner, and the bills go to the mortgage company on our records. It is very important for you to call our office with any changes. In fact, by the tax laws, you are the sole party responsible for keeping your land records up to date and correct. Too many times interest and late fees occur. As always, call with any questions. I'm glad to help and I enjoy talking with you. Thank you.

2017
Election
Dates:
May 2
August 8
November 7

Do you
know your
precinct?



It is very
important for
you to call our
office with any
changes

Township makes progress on control of coal tar based products



In June of 2016 the Township of Scio enacted an ordinance prohibiting the use of coal tar based products in Scio Township. Coal tar is a byproduct of the process used to manufacture coke from coal. Austin, Texas, the District of Columbia, and the State of Washington have adopted similar laws and regulations. It is commonly used in asphalt sealer products. Other governments with similar laws/ordinances: Washington State, Portland OR, Salt Lake City, UT, Minneapolis, MN, Chicago, IL, New Haven, CT, Washington DC, Reston, VA.

Coal Tar-based products prohibited

Scio Township prohibits “the use and sale of sealant products containing >0.1 percent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by weight, including coal tar-based sealer in the Township of Scio in order to protect, restore, and preserve the quality of its waters and protect the health of its residents”.¹ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been found “to be harmful to humans, fish, and other aquatic life.”² To clarify, asphalt sealer means a petroleum based sealer material that is commonly used on driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces.³ A coal tar sealant product is a surface applied sealing product containing coal tar, coal tar pitch, coal tar pitch volatiles, RT-12, refined tar or any variation assigned the chemical abstracts service (CAS) numbers 65996-92-1, 65996-93-2, 65996-89-6, or 8007-45-2 or related substances containing more than 0.1% PAHs, by weight.⁴

Coal Tar Sealant is toxic

The City of Austin was one of the first to study and act on coal tar products. The City found that coal tar-based pavement sealants are a significant source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in Austin area stream sediments. Austin also conducted a series of biological studies documenting coal tar sealant toxicity and stream degradation from PAHs in this form. There are alternatives to coal tar-based sealants. Subsequently the City enacted its coal-tar prohibition in November of 2005.

Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have identified coal-tar-based sealcoat—the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on asphalt pavement such as parking lots—as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban areas for large parts of the Nation. Several PAHs are suspected human carcinogens and are toxic to aquatic life.⁵

Key Findings cited⁶

Human Health Concerns

Coal-tar-based sealcoat products wear into small particles of PAH’s and are tracked into homes as dust. For people who live adjacent to coal-tar-seal coated pavement, ingestion of PAH-contaminated house dust and soil results in an elevated potential cancer risk, particularly for young

children. Exposure to PAHs, especially early in childhood, has been linked by health professionals to an increased risk of lung, skin, bladder, and respiratory cancers.

Aquatic Life Concerns

Runoff from coal-tar-seal coated pavement, even runoff collected more than 3 months after sealcoat application, is acutely toxic to fathead minnows and water fleas, two species commonly used to assess toxicity to aquatic life. Exposure to even highly diluted runoff from coal-tar-seal coated pavement can cause DNA damage and impair DNA repair. These findings demonstrate that coal-tar-sealcoat runoff can remain a risk to aquatic life for months after application.

For more Information

Should you or someone you know have questions about asphalt sealer products, contractors soliciting your business and/or business in your neighborhood, please contact the Township at 734-369-9400.

1. Township of Scio Code of Ordinances - Sec. 16-321. - Purpose.
2. Township of Scio Code of Ordinances - Sec. 16-321. - Purpose.
3. Township of Scio Code of Ordinances -Sec. 16-322. - Definitions.
4. Township of Scio Code of Ordinances -Sec. 16-322. - Definitions.
5. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/fs20163017>
6. Coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat—Potential concerns for human health and aquatic life; Fact Sheet 2016-3017 By: Barbara J. Mahler, Michael D. Woodside, and Peter C. Van Metre



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A Busy Second Half of 2016!

The township Land Preservation Commission and Board of Trustees are deeply grateful to township residents for approving the millages that make this vital work possible.

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program closed out 2016 with another seven purchases, all but one of them adding to a large protected area south of Jackson Rd. on the west side of the township.

The first two purchases were of adjacent parcels owned by the Vander Haagen family, at the south end of Dino Dr. (which runs south from Jackson Rd. west of Baker Rd.). The parcels total 30 acres and have a mix of high quality upland and lowland woods with a branch of Honey Creek bisecting them. The southern boundaries of these parcels are adjacent to a 55 acre woods purchased by the township as a preserve in 2015.

Four adjacent ten acre parcels of similar excellent quality were purchased in that area, from Regina Russell, Kathryn Bennett, Thomas & Catherine Graham and Barb & Jerry Saalfeld. Matching funds for all six of these purchases were provided by the Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program (NAPP), so Scio's cost was only 50% of the purchase price. The preserve constitutes 124 acres in a contiguous protected area totalling 502 acres (including an adjacent farm in Lima Township) in 14 transactions over 17 years! The township is developing plans to provide access via a two mile long trail running all the way to the township's Wild Preserve on Liberty Rd.

Scio's final 2016 purchase was a ten acre parcel on the west side of Zeeb Rd. between Marshall Rd. and Dexter-Ann

Arbor Rd. The property is a critical link for the Zeeb Road Pathway and could serve as a stopping point for travel from Jackson Rd. to the eventual link with the Border-to-Border Trail that runs along the Huron River. Plans are also being developed for this property.

Through the end of the year, Scio's Land Preservation Program has protected 1,211 acres. Only 42% of the value of those properties came from our dedicated millage; the other 58% came from matching grants and donations of appraised value with NAPP contributing close to \$3 million. Nearly 90% of millage revenues have been used for purchases, with only 10% used for program administration (professional services and staffing). The township Land Preservation Commission and Board of Trustees are deeply grateful to township residents for approving the millages that make this vital work possible.



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UTILITIES UPDATE BY SCOTT MARTIN, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Do you have a water-pressure driven sump pump backup unit?

Please understand how your backup unit works and monitor it frequently.

Residents who choose to use the water-pressure driven sump pump backup units should be fully aware of the following information.

Monitor these units

If you are a customer of the municipal water system AND your home loses power and the backup unit becomes operational, OR if the unit has a float that sticks in the open position causing the unit to run continually, you are drawing water from the municipal supply. That is how the unit is designed to work. The municipal water supply provides the water pressure (and the water) to keep the sump pump operational. If the backup unit works correctly, it will do the job of safely discharging excess water and the unit will shut off when power is restored.

Problems can occur

However, if the backup unit should not shut off when power is restored, it will continue to use water from the municipal supply resulting in the usage of an inordinate amount of

water; water that passes through the primary water meter of your home; water that you are being charged for. Remember too that the sewer charges are computed based on the reading of the primary meter. It is possible for the unit to use large amounts of water without the homeowner even being aware of the problem. Please understand how your backup unit works and monitor it frequently – especially during and after a power failure. You might even be aware of the constant sound of running water – the first clue to a failed unit.

A word of caution

The Township has had a number of these problems occur because the homeowner was unaware that they even had a water-powered backup system or how they function or that the system was running continuously unnecessarily. Once, a resident incurred a water bill of more than \$12,000 during such an event. Please remember, the homeowner (or renter, depending on the terms of your lease) is responsible for all charges that are incurred.



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

Township Board of Trustees

Jack Knowles, Supervisor
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk
Donna Palmer, Treasurer
Christine Green, Trustee
Kathleen P. Knol, Trustee
Irwin G. Martin, Trustee
David Read, Trustee

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.

Scio Township Department Heads

Bryce Kelley, Township Manager
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

Washtenaw County Information:

Water Resources Commissioner:

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

County Road Commission

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

County Commissioner:

District 1 – Kent Martinez-Kratz
Martinez-KratzK@ewashtenaw.org

State Information:

State Representative

District 52 - Donna Lasinski
(855) 627-5052; DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov

State Senator:

District 22 - Joe Hune
(517) 373-2420; SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov

Governor:

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

Federal Information:

U.S. Representatives:

District 7 – Tim Walberg
(202) 225-6276; www.walberg.house.gov

District 15 – Debbie Dingell

(202) 225-4071; www.debbiedingell.house.gov/contact/email

U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow
(202) 224-4822; senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Gary Peters

(202) 224-6221; www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary

President of the United States:

Donald J. Trump
(202) 456-1111; president@whitehouse.gov

The Scio Township Community Report

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

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Julie Tanguay

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David Read

YOUR AD HERE!

Contact
bkelly@ScioTownship.org
for more information



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A permit is still required for open burning



BY DAVID READ – TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Burning Ordinance Update

NOTE: Every year we have questions about open burning in the Township so we are re-printing this article to help answer your questions.

In the spring of 2009, the Board of Trustees enacted a new Open Burning Ordinance. A copy can be found at...

[www.municode.com/library/mi/scio_township_\(washtenaw_co\)/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH18FIPRPR_ARTIIFICO_S18-19FIPRCOAD](http://www.municode.com/library/mi/scio_township_(washtenaw_co)/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH18FIPRPR_ARTIIFICO_S18-19FIPRCOAD)

...or simply go to the Township’s website (sciotownship.org), click on the “Learn about ordinances” Quick link on the right side of the Homepage, and then search for “open burning”.

Permits are required

A permit is still required for open burning and may be granted by the Fire Department by calling the Fire Station at (734) 665-6001 in advance of the burn. Open burning can be conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00

p.m. No permits shall be issued for parcels of land located east of M-14 or for any parcels of land of less than one acre in size. “Prescribed Burning” as defined in the ordinance, is allowable with a permit. Structures and other materials may be burned for fire suppression training only in accordance with separate regulations as stated in Ordinance 2009-02. Note: cooking fires are exempt from permit requirements.

Be careful of what you burn

Materials that can be burned under the Township’s ordinance include clean wood, natural materials and dried vegetation including leaves and grass clippings. “Clean wood” means natural wood that has not been painted, varnished, or treated with preservatives and does not contain resins or glues such as plywood or other composite materials. Fires shall not contain rubbish, plastics, leather, or petroleum based material or any flammable liquids. Please familiarize yourself with the ordinance and remember to call for a burn permit in advance of any burning activity.



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