

Scio Township

Summer 2018

COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Name that Rock

We are still “rocking” over here at Township Hall. In fact, a number of residents responded to my article in the last newsletter requesting names for the large hunk of granite outside our main entrance.

Among the suggestions are:

- Granny**
(granite, get it?)
- Zeebathon**
(I guess because we're on Zeeb Road?)
- SID**
(S=Scio, I=Interior, D=Department, I'm not sure about that either)
- Dwayne**
(OK, I don't get that one at all)
- Rockasaurus**
- Alcatraz**
(The Rock, get it?)
- Scio, a solid rock**
and
- Rocksy**
the previously mentioned suggestion of a staff member

Admittedly, much to the dismay of the newsletter editor, I was having a bit of 'writer's block' coming up with a good article for this issue. I think it may have something to do with the weather. All the sunshine and the heat that we've had lately, we're just not used to that, after all, this is not Texas or Arizona. So, in trying to come up with an interesting article, I posed the question to a group of guys that I regularly play tennis with. On that particular, recent evening, as luck would have it, all four players were Scio residents. Keep in mind, this group is well-educated, mainstream, either retired or semi-retired (excluding me), active, intelligent, seemingly normal human beings. I posed the following questions to them: "What do you want to know about your Township? Is there something that you pay particular close attention to? Is there a concern you

have that isn't being addressed?" The response? Quizzical looks, eyebrows furrowed, asking if there was some issue they should know about, but didn't, was there a problem in the Township? "No," I explained, "I was just looking for material for a story," and in the end, they provided absolutely no help in that regard. On a related, but side note, one of those other 3 players has hosted our rowdy group of guys at his house, on his private clay court, twice a week for the past 28 years. He and his wife have decided to move south, have sold the house, and thus the court. Thanks Mel for a great run!

And...So Long Carl



I would be remiss if I did not note that at the end of this month, the Township will be saying goodbye to a long time employee and friend, Fire Chief Carl Ferch. Carl first joined the department in January of 1988 and has led the charge as Fire Chief since June of 1997. He has been the force behind the

development of the department from a part time, volunteer staff to an up-to-date, well equipped, highly professional department that includes 6 full-time firefighters, 12 paid, on-call firefighters, 3 fire engines/trucks (including one 2018 model) and a designated medical emergency vehicle. The growth of the department and the training and equipping of the staff under Carl's watch has been due in large part to his commitment to the people of Scio Township, and his concern for their continued safety and well-being. Carl has accomplished all of this while working under numerous Township administrations and with limited funding. All of us in Scio owe Carl a huge THANK YOU! for a job well done, and for his dedication to the safety of the citizenry of Scio and to the Township as a whole.



Looking for election inspectors

We at the Clerk's Office are looking for ways to help Scio voters get to the polls more easily.



August Primary is August 7, 2018

August 7 is the Primary Election to be held throughout the State of Michigan. In a Primary Election voters are asked to select a candidate from a slate of several people running for a particular position. For instance this year there are four Republicans, three Democrats, and two Libertarian candidates running for the position of Governor. When voting, you will be directed to vote only one party on your ballot. Crossing from one party to another in the Primary Election will cause your ballot to be rejected. The August ballot has three parties: Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian.

Unlike some of the other communities in the County, Scio Township has no millage questions on the August ballot. The positions to be voted are for Governor, US Senator, US Congress, State Senator, State Representative, County Commissioner, and Precinct Delegates.

To make sure you are registered to vote, check your precinct polling place, and review a sample ballot for upcoming elections visit the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) at <http://michigan.gov/vote>.

Temporary Precinct Change— Precinct 5

Scio Farms Community Clubhouse is under construction with an addition and renovation, leaving Precinct 5 without a polling place in August and November. Accelerate Church has generously volunteered to serve as Precinct 5's location this summer and fall. Accelerate Church is located at 6075 Jackson Road, just a little east of the Scio Farms community on the south side of Jackson Road. (See map.)

New Voting Equipment

You may have already used the new voting machines if you voted in November 2017 or May of this year. If not, August is your chance to check out the new equipment! The tabulator looks different, but it operates much in the same way as the old equipment. One of the benefits of the new machines is that it is much easier to see if there is an issue with a ballot. Most voters are pleased when the flag appears after inserting their ballot. The new V.A.T. (Voter Assist Terminal) is available to all should you need the benefit of auditory, larger print, or other assistance to mark your ballot.

Register to Vote

Any day is the right day to register to vote. However, July 9th is the last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote in the August 7th election. Recently, nationwide and locally, there have been pushes to register eligible high school students to vote. While people must be 18 years old by an election day to vote in that election, people can register to vote when they are 17 1/2 years old. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, and other newly eligible voters to register.

What Helps You Get Out to Vote?

A large number of Scio Township voters vote via absentee ballot. In fact, in the November 2016 election, over 30% of votes were cast absentee (3,127 of 10,368 votes cast). People eligible to vote absentee may apply to do so prior to each election. For the rest of us who vote in person, we at the Clerk's Office are looking for ways to help Scio voters get to the polls more easily. We want to hear from you about what we might do differently to help you get the polls. More information about transportation to polls? Other information? Let us know! Contact us at the Township with your suggestions.

Deputy Clerk

I am looking for a Deputy Clerk, and with the elections in full swing this is 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).

State Representative Update

Throughout the summer I will be hosting coffee hours and town halls as we work together to set our legislative priorities for the fall.

The state legislature in Lansing has wrapped up the spring legislative season with the approval of the 2018-2019 budget. As your state representative, I have kept the priorities of Scio Township front of mind as I worked on legislation and took my votes on the house floor.

Hearing your priorities at coffee hours and in your emails, I voted to support \$175 million in supplemental road funding for this summer and an additional \$312 million for 2018-2019. Both of these appropriations were achieved without raising taxes. These monies are distributed through the counties and townships according to a state formula that has been in place for over 50 years. Scio Township will have some additional funds to address the critical needs we see across our township. Realistically, it will not be enough funding to make all of the necessary repairs. Road funding will continue to be a key priority on my “to-do” list for us.

With a request from local government and a letter of support from my office, Scio Township is receiving \$300,000 from the Natural Resource Trust Fund for the Zeeb Road Iron Belle Connector Development project. Economic growth and quality of life are more and more intertwined with access to nature and bike-able communities for us. I am proud of the coordinated efforts we are making across Scio Township.

Our initiative has also led to a reduction in the dioxane clean-up rule from 85 ppb to 7.2 ppb. This will meaningfully impact the clean-up efforts and containment of the dioxane

plume as we work to remediate the harmful effects of corporate polluters in our community.

Throughout the summer I will be hosting coffee hours and town halls as we work together to set our legislative priorities for the fall. Please contact me at (517) 373-0828 or donnalasinski@house.mi.gov if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



BY BRYCE KELLEY, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Township-wide trash & recycling update

Township of Scio evaluated the quality of service offered, experience, cost, and communication program for customers.

Scio Township intends to provide curbside trash and recycling services throughout the Township. Refuse collection will be shifted from multiple private bidders who contract individually with homeowners to the Township-wide PREFERRED VENDOR contract.

The Township has evaluated the responses and selected the two most responsive and complete proposals for interviews



and the final selection. Once the preferred bidder is identified the Township will begin contract negotiations.

From the review the Township of Scio evaluated the quality of service offered, experience, cost, and communication program for customers. The communications and outreach of the preferred vendor is one of the most critical components of this service.

Participation in the Township-wide Preferred Vendor Waste and Recycling Services collection program will be mandatory for all single family residences in the Township.

The Township anticipates the service will be in full operation by February or March of 2019

BY BRYCE KELLEY, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Shared-Use Pathway update

The pathway connects to more than 4 miles of the Jackson Road bicycle lanes and pedestrian ways.

This past December, Phase 1 of the North Zeeb Road Shared-Use Pathway was completed. The pathway connects to more than 4 miles of the Jackson Road bicycle lanes and pedestrian ways. A large part of the funding came from the public sector and the balance from private sector developers.

Phase 2 of the project continues the N Zeeb Road Shared-Use Pathway from Dexter-Ann Arbor Road to the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail at N Zeeb and Huron River Drive. As part of the project a dedicated pedestrian / bicycle bridge will be built across the Huron River.

Staff and engineers are working on the plans for Phase 2 of the N Zeeb Road Shared-Use Pathway. Funding efforts are underway for a 2019 construction start.

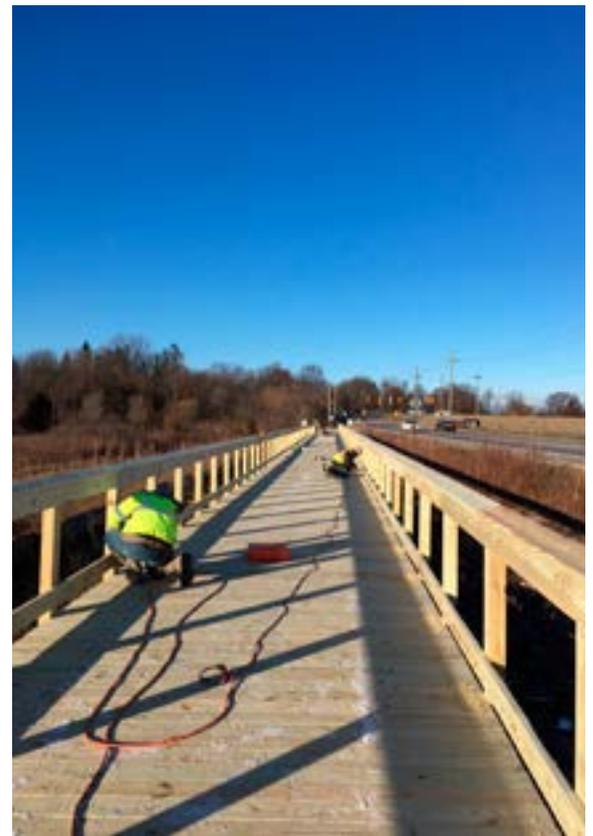


Photo by Nancy Hedberg

Township Hall addition

Stay tuned for an Open House invitation, sometime in early Fall, for all to visit and see the improvements and interact with staff.

As you may have seen and heard, the Township Utilities Department is constructing an addition to Township Hall on the northwest corner of the



existing building. Utility Department offices, equipment and inventory storage areas, and garage are being added, as well as spaces for Township Clerk to hold meetings and election workers' training. Some of the space is dedicated to storage. If there is one true thing about government, it never has enough area to store documents as required by State and Federal regulations.

The project is on track to be completed in early September. Stay tuned for an Open House invitation, sometime in early Fall, for all visit and see the improvements and interact with staff.

Pet Waste Stations to the Rescue!

HRWC is partnering with Scio Township to place pet waste stations at locations where locals walk their dogs and where E.coli was found in Honey Creek.

In the last issue of this newsletter we introduced the Huron River Watershed Council's Honey Creek project to reduce E.coli (bacteria) pollution in the creek from sources in the Scio Township area. This project is based on a Honey Creek Watershed Management Plan developed in partnership with Scio Township and the state (DEQ) in 2014.

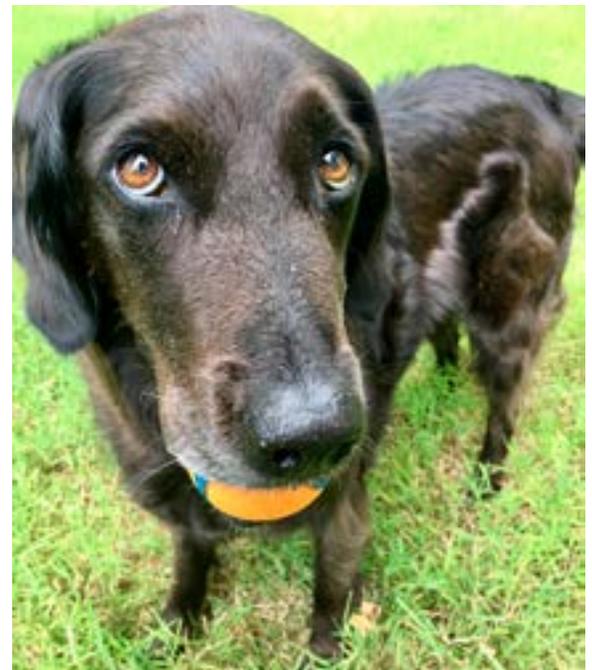
One of the project's goals is to reduce pet waste. This year, HRWC is partnering with Scio Township to place pet waste stations at locations where locals walk their dogs and where E.coli was found in Honey Creek.

E.coli is a fecal coliform whose presence indicates fecal contamination by warm-blooded animals, such as dogs. Dog waste left unpicked-up runs off into waterways after it rains. The rain carries the waste, and all of its bacteria and viruses, into the water. Luckily, there is an easy fix: scoop the poop! HRWC and Scio Township are making it easy for dog walkers to pick up after their pooches by setting up 10-15 pet waste stations. These stations will be equipped with bags and canisters. They will also have signs to remind pet owners of the dangers posed by undisposed waste and to clean up after their dogs. The stations will make proper pet waste disposal more convenient for dog walkers while preventing the waste from entering the water.

Along with the pet waste stations, HRWC is planning to collaborate with pet stores, veterinarians, shelters, and other pet-related businesses to help get the word out about the importance of scooping-the-poop.

To learn more about the project and other ways we can reduce E.coli in our creek, go to hrwc.org/honeycreek.

The Honey Creek project has been funded wholly or in part through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Molly, photo by Snagglefoot Dog Walks and Pet Care



Identity frauds/mail theft incidents

Residents in Scio and Lodi Township neighborhoods have been the victims of identity fraud and mail theft incidents.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's office has issued the following warning.

The information below explains the warning and provides actions you can take to protect your family and yourself.

Residents in Scio and Lodi Township neighborhoods have been the victims of identity fraud and mail theft incidents. The neighborhoods that have been hit in Scio thus far are High Hollow, Sandy Creek, Malena, Trillium Crossing and Greenook in Loch Alpine.

All of the incidents that have occurred are within neighborhoods where the mailboxes are grouped together. Most of those neighborhoods have open mailboxes - where

You will receive a daily email from the Post Office with photographs of the mail you will be receiving that day. The suspects were signing the victim's residence up for Informed Delivery and receiving the email notifications showing when the newly obtained credit cards would be arriving. The suspects would then retrieve the mail from the mailboxes the day the credit cards were being delivered. You can sign up for Informed Delivery at this website: <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>

Some important points to consider

Sign yourself up for one of the credit apps; Credit Sesame, Credit Karma, etc., to monitor any activity on your credit account. These are apps you can install on your smart phone and check daily. You can see if there have been any hard inquiries on your credit for openings of new accounts. Put a flag on your account to be notified prior to any new accounts being opened. If you've been a victim of an identity theft or fraud, get a copy of the police report and send it to one of the three credit bureaus to have 7 year fraud protection which will not allow any new accounts to be opened without being contacted first.

Important things to do and/ask:

If you find that someone obtained a fraudulent credit card in your name here are some important things to do and/ask:

- Cancel the card immediately
- Ask if the card has been used. If it's been used find out date/time, store location, amounts, items purchased
- How was the credit card opened (online?)
- IP address used to apply for the credit card
- Time of the IP address submission
- Date of application
- Phone numbers attached to the application
- Email address attached to the application
- Did you receive a letter from the US Post Office saying you were signed up for Informed Delivery that you don't recognize. There will be a partial email address on the letter that was used to sign up for the service. Contact the Post Office to have this addressed if you didn't sign up.
- If you're not signed up for Informed Delivery sign up using the link above.
- Call the Sheriff's Office to report the fraud and provide them with any/all of the above information.

Again we are turning all of these cases over to the US Postal Inspectors Office for further follow-up and prosecution. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.



anyone could go through them. Personal information was obtained from all of the victim's. Social security numbers were obtained to apply for several different credit cards online. Most of the credit cards applied for were through Fidelity. Others applied for were Ally, Elan, Capitol One, American Express and Fifth Third. The cards were then mailed to the victim's residence. Some of the victim's received the cards prior to the suspect's taking them from their mailbox and others the suspects were able to retrieve the new cards prior to the victim's having any knowledge of the accounts being opened. The suspects were then using the new credit cards at various Best Buy's and Walmart's throughout the state to make purchases of Apple watches, iPads and gift cards.

A majority of the victim's found out that their residence had been signed up for Informed Delivery through the US Postal Service. This is a program that every home can be registered for (only one occupant of the home can register).



Get involved in your community

Sign-up to receive the Scio Township Newsletter electronically!

Email:
"newsletter@
sciotownship.org"

Scio Township Information

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

Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Utility Department Hours:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Utilities Emergency (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration (734) 369-9350

Township Board of Trustees

Jack Knowles, Supervisor – jknowles@sciotownship.org
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk – nhedberg@sciotownship.org
Donna Palmer, Treasurer – DEpalmer,@sciotownship.org
Christine Green, Trustee – CGreen@sciotownship.org
Kathleen P. Knol, Trustee – kknol@sciotownship.org
Irwin G. Martin, Trustee – Imartin@sciotownship.org
David Read, Trustee– DRead@sciotownship.org

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@sciotownship.org will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

The Scio Township Community Report

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

Editor
Jeremy Glick
Graphic Design
Julie Tanguay

Scio Township Staff

Scott Martin – smartin@sciotownship.org –
Utilities Director
Bryce Kelley – bkelley@sciotownship.org –
Township Manager
Sandy Egeler, CFO – SEgeler@sciotownship.org
Kristy Aiken – kaiken@sciotownship.org –
Office coordinator
Donna Palmer – DEpalmer@sciotownship.org -
Treasurer
Jack Knowles – jknowles@sciotownship.org - Supervisor
Nancy Hedberg – nhedberg@sciotownship.org - Clerk
Carl Ferch – cferch@sciotownship.org – Fire Chief
Jim Merte – jmerte@sciotownship.org – Assessing/IT
Fran Szuma – fszuma@sciotownship.org –
Administrative Clerk

Other Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff’s Department,
Zeeb Road Sub-Station (734) 994-2911
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; wrcr@wccroads.org

County Commissioner:

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

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 12 – Debbie Dingell

(202) 225-4071; [www.debbiedingell.house.gov/
contact/email](http://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](http://www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary)

President of the United States:

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



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