

Scio Township

Winter 2018

COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Township Construction Activities

The Township is growing and so is your Township Hall! In the spring of 2017 the local firm, A3C Architects, was engaged to assist the administration in planning for a new addition to provide upgraded facilities for our Utility Department as well as an election training area and election storage space for the Clerk's office. The Utility Department has outgrown their current inefficient and cramped offices. The Department has very limited storage space for equipment, and Township vehicles are parked outdoors 24/7 subject to the ravages of Mother Nature.

The planning and design phases took place last spring and summer and the project went out for bids in September. The construction contract was awarded in November and we broke ground (with little fanfare but much enthusiasm) in December 2017.

The new addition expands what is now the rear of the building to the north, and includes a new separate outside entrance for the Utility Department. The interior space connects directly to the existing building and includes a new reception counter, multi-purpose room for conference space and election training (for the Clerk's office), offices and cube areas, restrooms with showers, lunch room, garage space for vehicles and equipment storage, and a small basement that provides additional long-term storage space.

The project includes remodeling 2500 sf of the existing building, and adding approximately 4986 sf of new main floor area. The basement area comprises 1135 sf.

While the construction is causing minor disruption to the normal Township routine, it will not be long lived as the current plans are to have at least part of the addition occupied in September. The project cost is \$1.7M, which includes the building, expansion and improvement of the parking area, outside lighting upgrades, improved stormwater facilities, landscape improvements and a new pathway extending from Zeeb Road to the front door of Township Hall. The project is being funded primarily from sewer and water reserve funds.

Stay tuned for a Utility Department Open House in the

fall to show off their new offices.

Jackson Road Pump Station

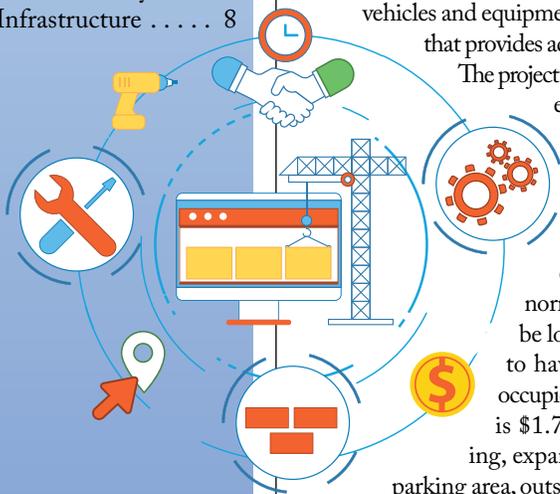
Another Township construction project is currently underway further to the south, near the NE corner of Jackson Boulevard and Zeeb Road. The Township has a contract with the City of Ann Arbor to receive and treat the Township's sanitary sewage flows. The small brick building between PNC bank and Weingartz houses equipment that collects all the raw sewage from the Jackson Road corridor and pumps it to the east into the City system. The point where we connect to the City sewer pipe is actually on Arborview Boulevard, so, a little-known fact, is that the Township actually owns and maintains sanitary sewer lines within the City limits.

In 2015 the Township was contacted by the City with regard to an odor problem coming from our pipe within the City. A study was performed and it was determined that the problem was hydrogen sulfide gas created from the extended time that the sewer flows travel in the pipe without any (or enough) oxygen present. Since that time, the issue has been addressed with a short-term solution consisting of adding a liquid calcium nitrate to the sewage at the pump station, before it is pumped to the City system.

The long-term solution is a more efficient oxygen injection system. This system was selected based on favorable expected odor improvements, and lowest present worth costs when compared to other alternatives. To accommodate this new specialized equipment, significant modifications to the existing building are necessary and this is the work that is currently underway. It is anticipated that the project will be complete and operational by late this year. The project cost is \$1.5M and is funded thru the sanitary sewer reserve funds.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING to consider an amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance to add Section 36-347, Overlay for Preservation and Enhancement of Natural Features (OPEN), to be held Monday, March 12, 2018, 7:00 PM, Scio Township Board Room, 827 N. Zeeb Road.

The full text and map can be viewed on the Township website: www.sciotownship.org or at the Township Hall during regular business hours.



A Reminder

The holidays are over and it is that time of quiet in our lives, thinking of the new year and our resolutions, of seed catalogues and gardening plans.

On a not so pleasant note, it also means “tax time” in two ways, filing our federal tax return by April 15 and paying our property taxes for 2017, by February 14.

Many thanks to you who have checked your records and provided us with the correct information. We still had quite a few returns due to address changes and people being on vacation. It is important that we are notified. Your “forwarding” instructions at the Post Office does not work for us and the bills are returned.



Two things to remember as February 14th draws near – Postmarks are “not accepted” as a date of payment and the mail system is not dependable to get the mail to us in just a couple of days. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO MAIL YOUR PAYMENT. Allow at least five business days to reach us. The late fee is 3% of your total bill if we do not receive it by the 14.

Your Treasurer,
Donna E. Palmer

Property taxes for 2017, are due by February 14

Elections 2018

2018 Elections

2018 will be another busy Election year with the August Primary and the November Gubernatorial Elections coming up. You can look forward to using the new voting equipment. We first employed the new tabulators and ADA accessible machines in November and had good success with them.

Absentee Voter Ballots

For those on the ‘Permanent List’, please let us know if you will be out of town for the summer. Applications for Absentee Ballots will be sent out for the August Primary Election in the first week of June. Ballots will be mailed out the first week of July. Be sure to allow for plenty of delivery time if you return your ballot via US Postal Service (it sometimes takes up to 10 days to reach us!). Also, be reminded that your ballot must be delivered to the Township no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

Your Precinct May Have Changed!

(reprinted from the Spring '17 newsletter)

When you voted in November and were surprised to learn that your polling place had changed, please know that we are trying once again to let you know that your precinct may have changed.

In Scio Township, we have two school districts, two US Congressional Districts, two State House Districts, and two County Commissioner Districts. Because of this, up until January of 2017, most of our eight precincts had two ballot styles and some had three. This required that we have on hand up to 23 different ballot styles for each election and our Election Inspectors had to 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 for eight precincts from 23 to 11...most of them will now have only 1 ballot style. These changes 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 among the precincts.

Before heading to the polling place, check your Voter ID card and note your polling place. If you lost it, the best place to check is the state's Michigan Voter Information Center, <https://vote.michigan.gov/mvic/> or call Township Hall and we can look it up for you. Most importantly, your Congressional, State House, County Commissioner and School District are still the same. For some of you, only your Precinct and Polling Place may have changed.

Election Workers

Have you ever considered working at the Polls on Election Day? We are always looking for additional election inspectors. We provide training in advance and place new workers with experienced inspectors at smaller elections. It can be a very long day—we provide a continental breakfast, sandwiches for supper, and a small hourly wage. Please contact me for more information and look for the application on our website. The minimum age for an Election Inspector is 16. Perhaps your child (or grandchild) has taken an interest in politics and might enjoy seeing how the process works first hand? Often, schools will allow students to take the day off for this type of activity.

Register to VOTE!



Shared-Use Pathway Update

Walkers, joggers, and bicyclists now enjoy over 2 miles of a continuous Zeeb Road pathway

This past December, Phase 1 of the North Zeeb Road Shared-Use Pathway was completed. Final grading, landscape and grass restoration will be finished this spring. Walkers, joggers, and bicyclists now enjoy over 2 miles of a continuous Zeeb Road pathway extending from Dexter-Ann Arbor Road south to the Country French Estates subdivision. And 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.

A Scio Township Study Group was formed in January 2010 with the goal to move forward the realization of non-motorized shared-use pathways for Scio Township. The North Zeeb Road Shared Use Pathway was highly ranked by the Study Group because it will ultimately connect to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail. The B2B is planned to be constructed by the Washtenaw County Parks in 2018. It will also provide an important linkage to some of the newer high density developments located on South Zeeb Road and draw users along the Jackson Road corridor by way of existing sidewalk and bike lanes. Ultimately the pathway will allow the first truly north-south non-motorized linkage from Jackson Road to Huron River Drive. Joining with Scio Township in this ambitious plan of non-motorized infrastructure are the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Parks, and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS).

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. Project design, layout, easement procurement and fundraising for Phase 2 will take place in 2018.

To kickoff Phase 2 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund announced that Scio's N Zeeb Road Pathway grant application to the Trust Fund has been recommended by the MNRTF Board of Trustees for funding \$300,000.00 of the \$1.4 million project. Phase 2 funding will come from grants, community fundraising and dedicated non-motorized infrastructure available from various agencies, transportation groups and non-profits.



Photo by Nancy Hedberg

BY SANDY EGELER, CFO

Types Of funds Explained

Every Government in the Country is structured the same. Government operates and accounts for all activities in what is called funds.

There are three types of funds:

Governmental funds are used to account for the government's "governmental operations". The focus of these funds is to measure net assets, not cost of services.

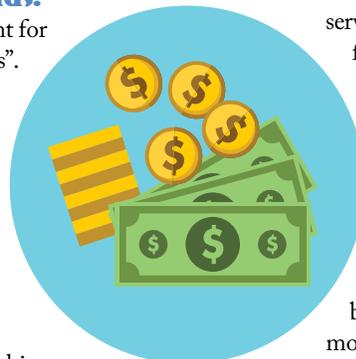
Proprietary funds are used to account for the "business" type activities. The focus is on measuring the cost of services so proper rates to customers can be calculated. This type of fund is predominately sewer and water operations.

Fiduciary funds account for assets held in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of others.

These funds are mainly used to account for property tax collections. None of the money collected is kept by the fund. All money are owed to another government.

Basically, Governmental funds account for the services the Government provides. Proprietary funds operate as any other business would.

The main thing everyone should know is no matter what type of fund there are laws that govern how we account for all assets and liabilities of the Government to ensure the money collected for a specific purpose is properly used for that purpose. Money from Proprietary funds cannot be used by Governmental funds. Just as money collected for paving roads cannot be used for sewer or water.



Money collected for a specific purpose is properly used for that purpose.

Gelman Dioxane Plume Update

Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township and the Sierra Club had petitioned the EPA to review the Gelman contamination site for consideration to be declared a Superfund site.

History

Gelman Sciences, located on South Wagner Road in Scio Township, used about 850,000 pounds of 1,4-dioxane in its manufacturing of medical filters; discharging the toxic chemical on its property from 1966 to 1986. Process waste containing 1,4 dioxane was discharged in various ways on the Gelman site, including into onsite unlined sewage treatment ponds, later by “spray irrigation” onto its lawns and into a mile-deep injection well. It is not known how much dioxane was released into the environment by each method. Additionally, it is not known how much dioxane remains at the core site on the Gelman property in Scio Township.

Gelman Sciences has been subsequently purchased by Pall Corp, and later by Danaher Corp., a multi-billion dollar corporation.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has overseen the limited cleanup that Gelman has performed using pump and treat remediation. This treatment is governed by a 1992 Consent Judgement and subsequent modifications. This approach has allowed the plume to continue spreading in many directions. The dioxane plume is currently spreading through Ann Arbor and toward the Huron River at concentrations which exceed the cleanup standard. Many Scio Township wells have been contaminated with dioxane, necessitating annexation to the City of Ann Arbor and connection to municipal water. Currently, the

dioxane plume is estimated to be approximately 4 miles long and 1 mile wide. Approximately 250 monitoring wells have been placed to attempt to track the movement of the plume. Select residential wells are also monitored by Washtenaw County. Many of these wells are sampled for dioxane on a schedule negotiated by the DEQ and Gelman.

The United States EPA has characterized 1,4-dioxane as a likely carcinogen by all routes of exposure. It is a colorless liquid that dissolves easily in water, it does not evaporate readily and it travels with the groundwater.

In October of 2017 the DEQ reduced the drinking water standard for 1,4 dioxane from 85 parts per billion (ppb) to 7.2 ppb. The new 7.2 level brings the state’s dioxane standards closer to the 2010 EPA guideline of 3.5 ppb for 1-in-100,000 cancer risk. However, many states have drinking water standards for allowable dioxane below 7.2.

Recent Activity

Scio Township, Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor and the Huron River Watershed Council have been allowed to enter the ongoing Gelman case as intervening parties by Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge Tim Connors. This has allowed these parties and their attorneys to participate with the DEQ and Gelman in the ongoing settlement negotiations. It is hoped that the parties will be able to push for a more comprehensive clean up plan and improved monitoring of the expanding plume.

Gelman filed an application for leave to appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals contesting the decision of Judge Connors to allow the local governments and the Watershed Council to intervene in the Circuit Court case. This appeal was denied unanimously by a three judge Court of Appeals panel. Gelman has subsequently filed another application for leave to appeal with the Michigan Supreme Court, again contesting the decision to allow the intervenors into the legal action. The Michigan Supreme Court denied Gelman’s appeal on January 12, 2018.

Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township and the Sierra Club had petitioned the EPA to review the Gelman contamination site for consideration to be declared a Superfund site. In November



of 2017, the EPA announced that they will let the DEQ continue to oversee the regulatory attempts to manage the spreading plume and the risks associated with the dioxane contamination. The EPA will retain oversight with additional progress reports by the DEQ, and the Gelman contamination site will remain on the EPA's active Superfund program site inventory.

In pursuing involvement in the Circuit Court case and in the petition to the EPA, Scio Township is seeking to improve the dioxane contamination cleanup and hold the polluter accountable.

Additional information

Scio Residents for Safe Water (SRSW)

www.srsw.org, srswmail@gmail.com

DEQ, Dan Hamel, Environmental Quality Analyst

hameld@michigan.gov

EPA, Michael Berkhoff, Remedial Project Manager U.S. EPA

Region 5, Superfund Division,

berkoff.michael@epa.gov

Washtenaw County Environmental Quality

Jennifer Conn, Environmental Quality Analyst,
connj@ewashtenaw.org

Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD)

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environmental_health/card/, cardwc@gmail.com

Scio Township

Bryce Kelley, Scio Township Manager,
bkelly@sciotownship.org

Kathleen Knol, Scio Township Trustee,
kknol@sciotownship.org

BY SHIFT COMMANDER BRIAN KOCH

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Snow in Michigan is a big part of our winter life. It can be beautiful and present significant hazards. The suggestions below are designed to help you arrive safely at your winter destination.

- Leave extra time to get to your destination. Speed is the number one cause of accidents in inclement weather. Posted speed limits are meant for driving in good conditions not for inclement weather
- All wheel drive and four-wheel drive help get vehicles moving but do not aid in turning or stopping your vehicle. Don't drive faster than you can safely stop or turn your vehicle on slippery roadways
- Make sure your windshield washer fluid, tires and fuel tank are full before you start your trip
- Clear all snow from your vehicle paying special attention to windows, headlights, mirrors and tail lights. In many areas, it is against the law to enter a roadway with accumulated snow on your roof, hood or trunk of your vehicle (the blowing snow can interfere with the visibility of other drivers or freeze on the road)
- Leave a greater distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you as it will take much longer for you to come to a complete stop
- On extremely cold days/nights roads that were wet can refreeze even after they have been salted



- Don't be distracted while driving. This goes without saying for all weather conditions but is even more of a hazard in poor weather conditions

Keep your cell phone charged and nearby and an emergency kit in your vehicle.

- Emergency kit should include but not be limited to:

Extra Hat	Blanket	Water
Snow Boots	Emergency Flares	Flashlight
Gloves	Snacks	Batteries
- Please remember to slow down when approaching emergency vehicles on scene of accidents and move over one lane
- When the roads are bad there maybe multiple accidents which could lead to long wait times for Police, EMS, Fire and Tow Trucks to help clear the roads so you can get to your destination safely
- Slow down and avoid becoming a part of the problem

Scio Fire wishes its residents to have a safe and happy 2018

BY JEREMY GLICK

Transportation Alternatives Planning

We hope to discuss transportation alternatives with you.



The Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP) was formed in the fall of 2017 to address the growing needs and wants of township residents concerning alternative and pedestrian forms of transportation. The committee is composed of various township residents, who bring perspectives from different boards and committees within Scio Township government. They are Todd Bailey (DDA), Jeremy Glick (At-Large), Will Hathaway (Parks and Recreation), Jay Holland (Planning Commission), David Read (Township Trustee), Patrick Shields (Local Roads Committee), and Jane Vogel (At-Large)

The TAP Committee partners closely with the Land Preservation Commission (LPC) and Parks and Recreation to get a better understanding of the township and its natural resources. So far, the committee has focused on information

gathering. The TAP members believe it is critical to understand how we can better understand a 20-year vision for the township, and alternative transportation options, if we consult with governmental, business, land preservation and other officials. In addition, there is significant effort to discuss with township residents, what they feel would be positive additions in terms of sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and more!

In the coming months, the TAP committee hopes to be visible in the township, gaining the aforementioned information from community members and leaders. We hope to discuss transportation alternatives with you and are excited to play this new role within our township community!

Contact the TAP Committee at TAP@sciotownship.org

BY BRYCE KELLEY, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Bike Safety Part 2

The most common bicycle crash involves other vehicles – other vehicles that typically weigh thousands of pounds and do not give an inch. There is a law of normal physics that states two bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time. This is true of bikes and motor vehicles, and the bike always loses.

Bicycle Safety.com (<http://bicyclesafe.com/>) is a valuable bike safety information and training resource. For education purposes the website has named various types of bike/car crashes: The Right Cross, The Door Prize, The Crosswalk Slam, The Wrong-Way Wreck, The Red Light of Death, The Right Hook, The Left Cross and The Rear End. So let's read about the Right Cross, the most common crash.

The Right Cross

This is the most common way to get hit (or almost get hit). A car is pulling out of a side street, parking lot, or driveway on the right. Either you're in front of the car and the car hits you, or the car pulls out in front of you and you slam into it.

How to avoid this collision:

1. Get a headlight.

If you're riding at night, you absolutely should be using a front headlight. It's required by law, anyway. Even for daytime riding, a bright white light that has a flashing mode can make you more visible to motorists who might otherwise Right Cross you. And headlamps mounted on your head or helmet are the best, because then you can look directly at the driver to make sure they see your light.

2. Wave.

If you can't make eye contact with the driver, wave your arm. It's easier for them to see your arm going left and

right than it is for them to see a bicycle coming straight towards them. You could also use a loud horn to get drivers' attention. If it looks like the driver is about to pull out without seeing you, yell! You may feel awkward, but it's better to be embarrassed than to get hit.

3. Slow down.

If you can't make eye contact with the driver (especially at night), slow down so much that you're able to completely stop if you have to. Sure, it's inconvenient, but it beats getting hit. Doing this saves lives.

4. Ride further left.

You're probably used to riding very close to the curb, because you're worried about being hit from behind. The driver is looking down the road for traffic, he's not looking in the bike lane or the area closest to the curb; he's looking in the middle of the lane, for other cars. The farther left you are the more likely the driver will see you. If you stay all the way to the right and they pull out, your only "option" may be to run right into the driver's side door

You might worry that moving left makes you more vulnerable to cars coming from behind. But the statistics say you're far more likely to get hit by a car at an intersection ahead of you that can't see you, than from a car behind you which can see you clearly. So while both positions have risk, you generally reduce your risk by riding a little farther left. Your actual lane position depends on road conditions. On fast roadways with few cross streets you'll ride farther to the right. On slow roads with many cross streets, you'll ride farther left.

The most common bicycle crash involves other vehicles.





Photo by Nancy Hedberg

Get involved in your community

Sign-up to receive the Scio Township Newsletter electronically!

Email: "newsletter@sciotownship.org"

Scio Township Information

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827 North Zeeb Road
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(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

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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.

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

County Road Commission

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

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Martinez-KratzK@ewashtenaw.

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(202) 224-4822; senator@stabenow.senate.gov
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President of the United States:

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



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Our residents and business operators must have safe and secure access to water and reliable sanitary sewer systems.

BY SCOTT MARTIN, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Heart Healthy Infrastructure

The term infrastructure is certainly a common adjective today. Infrastructure is used with road, highway and utility systems, communication systems, IT software and hardware, and as a descriptor for the basic framework and personnel structure of an organization.

The Township's buried water and sewer infrastructure is the principal capital asset of the Scio Township Utility Department. Department staff understands our residents and business operators must have safe and secure access to water and reliable sanitary sewer systems. Our utility infrastructure is the "heart" of our water and sewer system. The Utility Department's staff works very hard to keep the Township water and sewer infrastructure "heart-healthy".

A key part of sustaining the Township's utility infrastructure is vigilant system monitoring, inspections, and long range maintenance planning and budgeting. Much of this work is planned years ahead and implemented through the Department's Capital Improvement Planning (CIP). Annual CIP updates and prioritization are an integral part of the Department's workload. Funding for this work comes from 2 sources; user fees and state/federal loans.

Since 2006 the Utility Department has made \$10,112,709.00 in improvements in the water system. These improvements included a new Liberty Road connection and pumping station, new pipe and pipe repair improvements, installation of an updated GIS water system monitoring systems, water tower improvements, installation of a new water main to Baker Road, and water pumping improvements to the Wagner / Jackson station and the Ann Arbor West High pump station.

Over the same period, \$2,628,994.00 in new and improved infrastructure was completed on the sanitary sewer system. These included a manhole rehabilitation program to eliminate the infiltration and inflow of storm water, a sanitary sewer evaluation study, Jackson Road pump station improvements, system upgrades on West Jackson Road and the Uplands residential developments, elimination of a private pump station and the replacement of the obsolete Liberty Road pump station.