

Scio Township

WINTER 2019

COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Fire Department Happenings

We have kicked off the New Year here at the Township with a number of positive happenings over at the Fire Department. First, we are pleased to announce that we have hired 3 new additional full-time firefighters, which increases the full-time fire staff to 9. We extend a hearty welcome to Glen Cobb, Chris Collier and Chris Samborn. All three were well known around the firehouse, as each of them came from our paid-on-call (as needed) firefighter ranks. These new hires were the direct result of recommendations from a 'Fire Department Staffing Needs and Deployment Assessment' study that was commissioned and conducted last year. This staff increase, as well as other proposed organizational and operational changes within the department, are a first step to bring us closer to the goals outlined in the report and to comply with National Fire Protection Association standards.

Promotion

In addition to the new hires, there has also been one significant recent promotion within the department. 'Gordie' Bourne has been promoted from 'Man's Best Friend and Constant Companion', to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. Assistant Chief Gordie is a 4-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. He enjoys being petted, fawned on, fed with treats and being petted. He looks good riding in the truck with his head hanging out the window!



Citizen input requested

The Fire Department is requesting assistance from Scio residents for the re-design of the official Scio Township Fire Department shoulder patch. The shoulder patch is worn on the sleeve of their uniform and may also be used on shirts and other clothing. Often the shoulder patch design has



a connection to something that is unique about the community. The current patch is circular, 4-inch diameter with a yellow border, red letters, and white background (see photo-the color version of this newsletter is available

on our website). If you are interested in submitting a design, you may want to do an internet search for 'fire department shoulder patches'. There are numerous results with lots of good examples with different information, shapes, sizes, colors, etc. While this wasn't intended to be an official competition, if a design is submitted and the department decides to adopt it, we will announce and print it in this newsletter. Designs may be submitted in hard or electronic copy, and must be in color. Hard copies should be mailed or delivered to Township Hall, be sure to include your contact information, and note that it is a 'Fire Patch Design'. Electronic designs may be submitted to the general Township email address, again be sure to include your contact information.

Utility building addition dedication

Thanks to the many residents that attended the Scio Township Utility Department building addition dedication and ribbon cutting that was held last November. The afternoon event proved to be both informative and interesting to all who attended. Township staff provided tours of the building, and explanations of the operations of our water and sewer systems.



Pictured left to right: David Read, Noah Posthuma (architect), Jack Knowles, Christine Green, Irwin Martin, Kathy Knol, Donna Palmer, Nancy Hedberg

Winter 2019

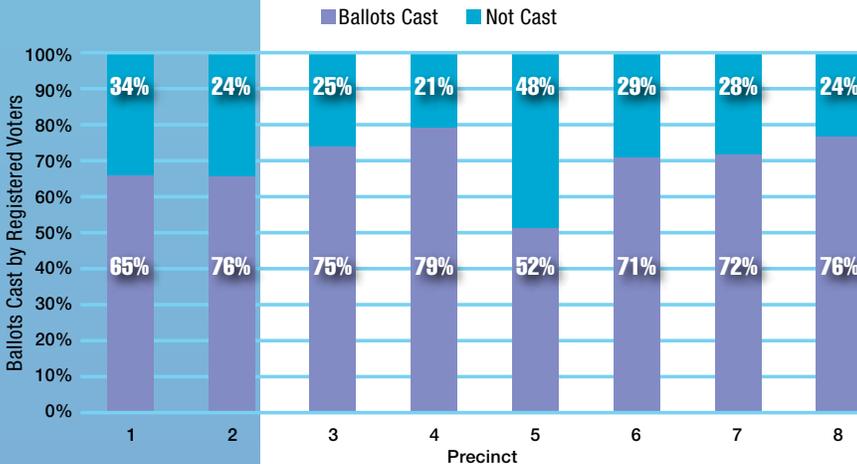
Clerks across the state are busy modifying procedures to implement the major changes made by the passage of Prop 3.

Michigan voters turned out for the November 6th Statewide General Election at levels not seen since 1962. As of October 2018, there were 7.4 million registered voters in Michigan. More than 4.3 million voters cast a ballot in the November 2018 Election—about 58% of registered voters statewide. As a point of reference, 63% of Voting Age Population turned out for the Presidential General Election in November 2016.

Our election turnout

Washtenaw County's turnout was higher than state's 58% average, with nearly 63% of County voters voting in November 2018, with 182,153 votes cast out of 289,563 registered voters. And, Scio Township's turnout was even higher than the County overall—more than 71%—9,820 of 13,777 the Township's registered voters voted in November 2018.

VOTER TURNOUT NOVEMBER 6, 2018



Absentee Ballots

The use of absent voter ballots continued to rise across the Township. Almost 32%—3,111 of the 9,820 ballots cast—were done so via absent voter ballot. 50 of these absent voter ballots were from military and out-of-country civilian voters who are afforded additional accommodations to ensure that they may cast their ballots from afar.

A special thanks to our outstanding Elections Inspectors whose commitment and hard work make it possible for all of us to have the opportunity to vote each Election Day!

Promote the Vote

State Proposal 18-3 'Promote the Vote' was passed with almost 67% of the vote. Prop 3 amends the state constitution in several ways to promote access to the vote, and Governor Snyder signed several bills at the end of the last Legislative session related to elections. Clerks across the state are busy modifying procedures to implement the major changes made by the passage of Prop 3.

Automatic Registration:

Eligible electors will be automatically registered to vote when applying for, or changing an address on, a state driver's license or identification through the Secretary of State office. People may opt out of being automatically registered to vote.

Expanded Registration:

People may register to vote in-person, via mail, or online up to 15 days prior to Election Day. Then through, and including on, Election Day, people may register to vote in-person at the Clerk's office.

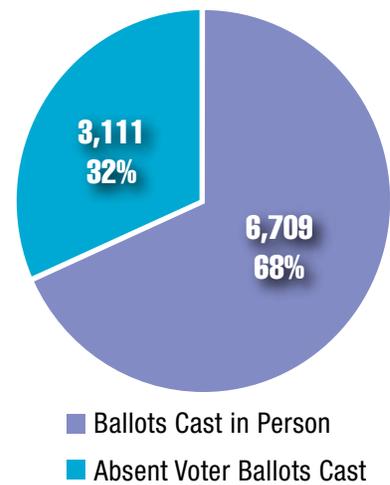
No Reason Absent Voter Ballot:

Now, any voter may apply to receive an Absent Voter Ballot for each election. No longer must a voter be at least 60 years old, disabled, or out of town. Any voter may apply to receive an Absent Voter Ballot.

Sign up for an Absent Voter Ballot!

The Scio Township Clerk maintains a 'Permanent List' list of voters who want to receive an application for an Absent Voter Ballot for each and every election. Please email us, drop a note in the mail, or leave a voicemail to ask to be placed on the Permanent Absent Voter List. Be sure to include your full name and address. You may reach the Clerk's Office at clerk@sciotownship.org or via mail 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or (734) 369-9400.

Absent Voter Ballots Cast NOVEMBER 2018



NOTICE: Water and Sewer Rate Increases for Scio Township Customers

These rates will go into effect over the March, April and May 2019 billing cycle

Scio Township contracts with the City of Ann Arbor to provide the Township’s public water supply and receive the Township’s sewerage flows. The contract allows Ann Arbor to periodically increase Scio’s cost as adopted by ordinance by the City. Ann Arbor has increased these costs every year since 2007 except one.

The City has increased Scio Township’s sewer rates 7.51% and increased the water rate by 4.88%. The Board of Trustees approved an increase for water and sewer rates at its regular meeting of January 8, 2019. A typical Scio residential

customer who does not irrigate their lawn will see an increase of approximately \$8.82/quarter for sewer and \$5.22/quarter for water, or approximately \$56.16 more annually.

To ease the burden of the cost increase the Township consistently pays its water and sewer invoices early to earn a price discount which the Township passes directly through to its customers. These rates will go into effect over the March, April and May 2019 billing cycles. This article serves to give official notice to the Township’s customers.

BY ANDREA MATTHIES

Stiltgrass Invasion: Year Two



Stiltgrass was introduced to Scio residents in the Fall 2017 Newsletter. Many more acres of stiltgrass were discovered in Scio (Fig. 1) in June 2018. The concerted efforts of the Washtenaw Stiltgrass Working Group coordinated by Dana Wright of Legacy Land Conservancy scouted and treated this area. However, we need your help.

Learn to identify this highly invasive grass

Did you notice a new grass in your woodlands? Did your lawn have areas that looked different? This is especially important if you live near the “hot-zone.” Questions? Send photo and location to washtenawstiltgrass@gmail.com.

Learn to identify stiltgrass by taking this excellent tutorial developed by Phyllis Higman of MSU: https://www.misin.msu.edu/train/species/JapaneseStiltgrass/story_flash.html

Want to learn more? <https://annarbor.wildones.org/stiltgrass/>



Fig.2: (above) Sprawling grass with distinctive off-center, silver stripe on leaves.

Trash & Recycling Project Status Update

Public meetings are being planned to focus on a new Township Trash & Recycling Ordinance and to introduce you to GFL, their staff and their services.

Many of you are aware that contract negotiations are underway between Scio Township and GFL Environmental, Inc to provide single sourced trash & recycling services in Scio Township. The Township appreciates the calls and messages from you supporting the program and requesting a status update.

Negotiations are well underway. A draft agreement is in process, with the expectation that GFL services will begin closer to April. You may see GFL trucks driving around. The company will begin scouting and driving Township roads to become familiar with the lay of the land. This will be a mandatory program for all residential customers in the Township.

Over the coming months you will be notified about two series of public meetings. The first series will focus on a new Township Trash & Recycling Ordinance. The new ordinance will be in line with the trash & recycling contract terms.

3. Or you may call GFL to set up services for your home. GFL has made arrangements to expedite an early conversions for Scio Township residents.

4. And if you have more questions please contact the Township at 734-369-9400 or email: bkelly@sciotownship.org

A bit of background

In late fall of 2016 the Board of Trustees first indicated their desire to put a single municipal waste hauling vendor program in place. The reasons are obvious. A Scio Township municipal trash & recycling program will reduce heavy truck traffic on our local roads, focus on improving efficiencies of trash & recycling services, provide the highest standards of service, experience, & reliability at a competitive price, educate the customer in trash diversion, waste reduction and recycling practices, help residents decrease the amount of solid waste sent to landfills, and reduce the number of days trash bins are set out on Township roads

Management of municipal trash & recyclables is an important environmental service. Thousands of municipalities across the state and country regulate it as a utility. In these municipalities trash & recyclables management is similar to the manner in which publicly supplied water, sewer and power is regulated, monitored, managed and billed.

Many communities use similar mandatory or preferred vendor services. Recognizing the need for a sustained approach to trash & recyclables management, the [2017 Washtenaw County Solid Waste Plan](#) identifies several mid- and long-term goals and objectives for a regional collaboration for the management of solid waste and recycling. They include:

1. develop an aggressive plan to reduce the overall amount of municipal solid waste;
2. develop an aggressive plan to increase the diversion rate of municipal solid waste to recyclables;
3. develop, support, and monitor comprehensive education, outreach, and feedback programs;
4. ensure the safe, lawful, and efficient management of municipal solid waste; and
5. operate collaboratively within the County and regionally outside of the County for a comprehensive sustainable materials management strategy. Scio Township's goals and objectives share similar priorities with respect to solid waste conversion, consumer education, quality of service and economy of scale.



The second set of public meetings will introduce you to GFL, their staff and their services. These meetings are still being planned and you will be noticed well in advance so you can make arrangements to attend.

During this time many of you want to know what to do about your current trash & recycling provider. You have options:

1. If you have a contract that extends beyond the date GFL will start, you may continue that contract up to one year until it expires. After that you will be required to opt-in to the Township program.
2. If your provider has informed you that they will end services before GFL starts you are free to contract with another provider until GFL begins service.

What you need to know about PFAS and our drinking water

Although it is safe to swim in the Huron River and in its connected lakes, one should not eat fish and should avoid the foamy water at the shoreline.

You may have heard recently that PFAS have been discovered in the Huron River and at low levels in Ann Arbor's drinking water. Although it is safe to swim in the Huron River and in its connected lakes, one should not eat fish and should avoid the foamy water at the shoreline. But what are the levels of PFAS in Ann Arbor's drinking water (which many Scio residents also drink)? And what are the hazards for those whose drinking water comes from private wells? What is being done to monitor the levels and rid the drinking water of PFAS?

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a class of chemicals (more than 3000) known chemically as polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances. These compounds were first produced in the 1950's and were used to make waterproof, stain resistant, and non-stick products. PFAS found their way into many, many manufactured products, including carpeting, clothing, food wrappings, upholstery, furniture containers, cosmetics, firefighting foam and more. Industry began phasing out the use of PFAS in the early 2000's, and firefighting foam production ceased (although the remaining foam is still on the market).

Preliminary research suggests that PFAS may increase thyroid disease, decrease fertility, cause developmental issues in children, and increase blood pressure and cholesterol levels. The EPA has recommended a lifetime "health advisory" limit of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS (the two compounds we know the most about). A "health advisory" is not enforceable, and some experts argue that even that level may be too high. A safe level may in fact be closer to 7 ppt for PFOS and 11 ppt for PFOA. Research continues at the state and national level and standards will likely be established. The sooner the better.

What are the levels of PFAS in Ann Arbor's (and Scio Township's water district) drinking water? And what is being done about them?

Tests conducted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) show that the PFOS/PFOA levels in the City's drinking water (and the drinking water of all Scio residents within the water district) are 4 ppt, below the health advisory level and below levels of concern contemplated by other experts. However, the MDEQ also tested for an additional 22 PFAS chemicals, but as of yet there is no established acceptable health level for these chemicals.

The City of Ann Arbor is testing the water regularly and working to lower PFAS levels with filtration devices. The City is conducting monthly tests for PFAS concentration at the point the water leaves the Water Treatment Plant. (PFAS concentration does not change between the plant and a homeowner's tap.) The City has also installed granular

activated carbon filtration and is exploring the use of a new type of carbon in several of its filters, which could lead to an increase in removal of PFAS. The MDEQ plans to sample water from the Huron River at several locations upstream from Barton Pond, the location of the City's drinking water intake, in an effort to identify the source of PFAS compounds in the river.

What about the rest of us on private residential wells?

The Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) states on its website that "PFAS have not been detected at significant levels in private or municipal wells within the Huron River Watershed." Nonetheless, "numerous sites in Michigan have detected PFAS-contaminated groundwater." Call the Washtenaw County Department of Environmental Health, 734.222-3800, for further information on private wells.

Testing for PFAS in private wells is not inexpensive or readily available. For details on residential well testing by the State of Michigan, you can contact the MDEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278. If you want to sample your own residential well, or pay a technician to sample your well, the MDEQ provides information on labs and guidance on taking a sample. The EPA also maintains a list of laboratories approved for PFAS testing using EPA Method 537.

The Ecology Center's Director, Mike Garfield, reports that there are two labs in Michigan that now test for PFAS. They are: Merit Laboratories in East Lansing (<https://www.meritlabs.com/>), and RTI Laboratories, in Livonia (<http://rtilab.com/>).

We all must monitor state and local efforts to keep our water safe.

More research into safe levels for each of these compounds, and appropriate clean-up methods is needed for each. No residential filtration system will remove all PFAS, but research continues into treatment technologies for public and residential water systems. Safe standards should be established and incorporated into the Michigan Safe Water Drinking Act.

HRWC, the Washtenaw County Health Department, and the City of Ann Arbor will co-host a community information session on PFAS and the Huron River on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, from 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. at the Towsley Auditorium, Morris J. Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor.

There are an abundance of on-line resources on PFAS contamination in Michigan. Some of them are listed for your convenience on the Township's website at sciotownship.org.



Resident Alert!

There have been several scams of residents being called, given false financial situations and asked to wire or send money to a specific account or to purchase specific gift cards.

One of our residents lost \$101,000. They were told that their passports and bank cards had been located going through customs into Shanghai, China. As they spoke in the resident's native language, it appeared to be a legitimate problem.

Another received a call from Apple Care Tech Support informing the resident they needed to purchase \$3,500 worth of gift cards, asked for the numbers off the back and then was told the cards did not work.

PLEASE DO NOT DO ANYTHING THAT ASKS YOU TO SEND MONEY OR MAKE UNUSUAL

MONEY RELATED PURCHASES! CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!

Another serious situation is the breaking into vehicles and trailers.

- Do not leave your keys in your car.
- Take your garage door opener inside also. (This could be a key to a future home invasion.)**
- Make sure all outside parked vehicles are locked and secured.

**How about cleaning out your garage and putting the car Inside! Many of us "have been there, done that" as the saying goes.

SCAM!

Telephone
scams,
counterfeit
money,
and
break-in
activity in the
Township.

BY HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Shovel Early and Often

As northerners we all know that road salt is an important tool for making roads, parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks safer during ice and snowstorms. But as the snow melts and becomes runoff, this salty water washes into our lakes, rivers, and streams. By melting off pavement and into curbside stormdrains, which don't filter or treat it, the runoff has an especially quick and direct path to our waterbodies.

Increased levels of chloride from road salt and other de-icers in our freshwater systems is harmful or toxic to aquatic organisms, damages or kills vegetation, and makes drinking water unhealthy for people.

One way to reduce this pollution is to shovel early and often. If possible, avoid using salt and other de-icers altogether. Try to balance your need for safety, potential environmental

impacts, costs, and convenience when choosing the best snow removal option for your home.

If you MUST use a de-icer, follow these tips:

- Look for products labeled "environmentally- or eco-friendly" keeping in mind that most contain some chloride. Shop early in the season for more choices in the store.
- Check and follow the label's application instructions for the most effective treatment. Some work better when applied before a snowfall to prevent ice from forming. Some stop working at colder temperatures. Pay attention to whether directions refer to air or pavement temperatures. Use as little as needed to get the job done. More de-icer does not mean more melting. (When using salt, use less than 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug.)
- Limit your use of sand. Instead of melting ice, sand provides traction. But it also increases the amount of sediment in our lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Promptly remove slush and any residual de-icers or sand from concrete surfaces to minimize polluted runoff. If de-icer or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Sweep it up and save it for later or throw it away.

As the snow
melts and
becomes runoff,
this salty water
washes into our
lakes, rivers,
and streams.





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
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.

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

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Christine Green, Trustee – CGreen@sciotownship.org
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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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County Road Commission

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



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

PRE SORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 308
ANN ARBOR, MI

Postmaster: leave with current resident

BY BRETT M. BOURNE, STFD SHIFT COMMANDER

Halloween Party thank you!

Mark your calendars for next year's Halloween Party Sunday October 27 2019

Scio Township Fire Department held its 31st annual Halloween Party on October 28th at the Scio Township Fire Station. Despite a cool rainy day, there was an outstanding turnout. Over 300 kids and adults attended. Highlights of all previous parties have been great food, games and prizes. This year added a few new features including a Petting Farm, Pony Rides, and a Magician. The event could not happen without the help of local volunteers and generous support from local businesses. The Scio Township Fire Department would like to thank our corporate sponsor

Meijer for their amazing support. The following local businesses also made generous contributions to keep this event completely free:

BMW of Ann Arbor, Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor, Suburban CDJR of Ann

Arbor, Plumbers Pipefitters Local 190 All About Furniture, Cribley Drilling Co, Dunning Toyota Ann Arbor, Ses Motors, Suburban Chevrolet Cadillac, Lafontaine Buick

GMC of Ann Arbor, Men on the Move – Ann Arbor, Grant's Auto & Truck Repair, Marrs & Terry, PLLC, Esquire Interiors, Ann Arbor Rug & Carpet Cleaning, Dexter Builders, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, A & B Radiator and Bourne To Mow.

Volunteer support from Accelerate Church (6075 Jackson Road, led by pastor Lester Guest) and Boy Scout Troop #7 (Ann Arbor with help from Assistant Scoutmaster Tom Chettleburgh). These volunteers were key to the success of the event and made sure that the day was enjoyable for kids and adults alike. Please mark your calendars for Sunday October 27, 2019 for next year's party and please be sure to join us in thanking our business sponsors and volunteers for making this possible.

