

Scio Township

Fall 2016

COMMUNITY REPORT

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Scio Township Fire Department's

Annual Halloween Party

Sunday October 30

2 - 4 p.m.

Kids, come in costume and bring your parents!

Sit in the fire trucks!

Refreshments Games Prizes

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Thank you Spaulding Clark

After decades of service and commitment to Scio Township residents, citizens, business owners and regional partners, Spaulding Clark is retiring in November of this year. In place of his usual From the Supervisor's Desk column I have taken the liberty to write a very succinct recap of his work for Scio Township; the full story would fill volumes.

Bryce Kelley, Township Manager

fall is here. Our landscape is acting out its one last willful action of vivacity. Every shade of red, orange, and yellow are ablaze across the horizon as the region's flora, and in some cases fauna, prepare for an annual hibernal solstice. The last crop of garden delicacies are being harvested, some taken right to the dinner table, some shared with family and friends and some prepared for later consumption.

On many levels I view fall of the year as the beginning of preparations for the coming spring and summer. And

like nature, it is a time when we as citizens begin preparation for new faces in our government leadership. Like fall of every other year, the General Election will occur, but today I would like to briefly visit what has happened under the leadership of your retiring Township Supervisor Spaulding Clark and your Township Board of Trustees over their remarkable tenure serving the residents, citizens and business owners in Scio Township.

"Townships are highly accountable to the residents they serve, in part because they are the form of government closest to the people. In Scio Township, we provide services that you tell us are of value to you." – E Spaulding Clark

With the support and direction of the Board of Trustees, Spaulding made clear his commitment to "make this place we call home special to all of us." In carrying out this charge he focused on three important public sector responsibilities.

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Road Problems? There's an app for that!

The Washtenaw County Road Commission has launched "WCRC Fix It" an online platform that allows residents to report non-emergency issues online at wccroads.org/report and via a mobile app available in the Apple iTunes & Google Play stores.

Using the WCRC Fix It app or web-form, residents will identify where a road issue is located on a map, answer a few brief questions and submit the issue to the Road Commission. Citizens will be able to track their service requests and will be notified when the issue is resolved.

The WCRC Fix It platform is to be used for non-emergency road issues. WCRC will check and respond to service requests submitted via WCRC Fix It during business hours. If residents need to report an emergency or potentially hazardous road issue, we encourage them to call us immediately at (734) 761-1500.

Informational brochures about WCRC Fix It will be available at the Township office soon.



With the support and direction of the Board of Trustees, Spaulding made clear his commitment to “make this place we call home special to all of us.”

Remember to allow plenty of time for your payment to get to us by the “due date”

From The Supervisor's Desk continued from page 1

1. A transparent, effective, efficient, responsive and respected township administration.

The Township's website was redesigned to provide a more attractive image and more easily accessible information about the Township. The Board of Trustees engaged two local professionals to rebuild and update the Township's website. The re-design of Scio's website was an effort that coincided with a project spearheaded by the Scio Economic Development Advisory Committee, which was charged by the Township Board to look at the issue of encouraging appropriate business development within the Township. One result was a short 2-minute video on the advantages of the business climate in Scio.

COMMUNITY REPORTS from The Supervisor's Desk. Spaulding used this forum to let the citizens and business owners stay abreast of current news. Infrastructure projects were the most common: from local road improvements to Washtenaw County Road Commission services to water and sewer projects. Next and frequently highlighted were the efforts of the Trustees and Land Preservation Commission to preserve land and open space. And Spaulding always rounded out his updates with business development activities and engagement, legislative news, reporting our careful and managed growth initiatives and actions, transportation alternatives, and recognitions that included a Community Initiative Sponsorship award and Township recognition as a five star township in the eCities 2010 project.

2. Restore and improve public-safety services

The Board of Trustees increased Sheriff's Department staffing in Scio. Response times dropped, and the increased staffing level allowed deputies to investigate and resolve open criminal activities in the Township.

Scio Township's Fire Department added a vehicle that serves as the primary response vehicle to all non-fire incidents, thus saving the wear and tear on the larger fire engine. Over a period of years and a careful eye on the budget, two new fire engines were purchased, without raising the Fire Protection Special Assessment, bringing our equipment up to current standards to meet the Township's current needs.

3. Fiscal responsibility

Working with and guided by the Township's Board of Trustees, Spaulding set benchmarks requiring the continual evaluation of the entire range of the township's finances, the avoidance of unnecessary cuts that reduce police and fire staffing, and keeping the Township's tax burden reasonable.

As is the case year upon year, Plante Moran - the Township's auditors, always report a high level of confidence in the manner that the Board of Trustees manages the Township's finances. As part of that responsibility the Township has developed and adopted a five-year rolling budget in an effort to try and anticipate budgetary costs and expenses over a longer period of time.

Now as I look out my windows I enjoy a vista of a naturalized and manicured greenspace scene. While I do appreciate my view, I fully appreciate that it is just a very small snapshot of the larger Scio Township. Likewise, this recap is just a snapshot of the result of years of dedication and commitment. All done by very special folks and who have committed to “make this place we call home special to all of us.”

TREASURER'S UPDATE BY DONNA PALMER, TREASURER

A Note from The Treasurer's Desk

A new period in the history of the Township is about to take place. Longtime Board members Spaulding Clark and Dick DeLong are retiring. I thank them for their support during my tenure as your treasurer. I will miss them, but also look forward to the “changing of the guard.”

I thought I'd take this opportunity to explain my duties as your treasurer. My responsibilities are - to collect and disburse all taxes; make sure all monies received are properly handled and deposited, and invest the township funds, until needed, to maximize interest earnings.

The treasurer is also a voting member of the Township Board, a responsibility that comes with being informed on the issues that come before us for a decision. It can be difficult at times, but also greatly rewarding. It has been exciting to be a part of the growth and changes over the last twenty-five plus years.

Now for some procedural reminders -

The December billing is now being prepared. I am asking everyone to make sure we have correct mailing addresses. Many of you have tax escrow accounts with your mortgage. The bill is mailed to them and we are discovering your mailing address information is not correct. Any mailings we make to you directly are returned.

Regarding tax payments, remember to allow plenty of time for your payment to get to us by the “due date”. This is particularly critical for those of you who request your bank send us your payment.

Make sure all your information is correct and complete. Ask how long the process will take to get it to us.

Most important, **we do not accept postmarks!** Again allow enough time for the payment reach us by the due date. Date of payment is the date it comes into the office.

As always, thank you for your help. I enjoy being your treasurer.

Don't
forget to
VOTE
November 8

November is election time again!

November 8, 2016 General Election

November 8th is fast approaching and we are expecting record turnouts. In order to make your visit to the polls as smooth as possible, please check ahead of time to be sure you are going to the right Precinct. You can easily check your registration status, note your polling place, and view a sample ballot on line at the Secretary of State's Website:

Michigan Voter Information

Center When you arrive at your polling place, be prepared to present your photo ID at the time you complete your Application to Vote. Should you not have a photo ID you can still vote by signing an affidavit. Each Precinct in Scio Township has several ballot styles due to splits in U.S. Congressional, State Representative, County Commissioner, and School Districts. We want you to get the correct ballot, so please respect the exacting nature of our Election Inspectors. Everyone on our team is committed to making your experience as smooth as possible for you. Thank your Election Inspectors—they spend many hours training, studying, and reviewing, in addition to the long hours they serve on Election Day.

Straight Ticket Voting Remains on the November Ballot!

The US Supreme Court has denied the State's request in the straight-ticket voting case. Please see the related article.

Media Reports and Election Security

Recently there have been several national news stories related to election security and the potential to "hack" election systems. Election officials in Michigan perform many checks and balances, some of which include:

- Logic and accuracy and public testing occurs on every piece of voting equipment
- Separation of duties between the county and local clerks
- Receiving Board process to re-confirm that precincts are in balance and recountable
- Tabulators are not connected to the internet and results are generated after the polls close
- Each county canvasses its own results in a very decentralized process
- Election Night results are unofficial and not certified as official until the completion of the 14-day county canvass process where results are confirmed by a bipartisan board.

A recent article from the Washington Post offers a nice perspective on these recent stories from an election expert's standpoint: *Almost No Chance Our Elections Can Get Hacked*

Voter Registration Deadline for November was October 11.

If you have a change of address please be sure to update your information with the Secretary of State's office, or here at the Township offices as soon as possible. You can check your registration status by going to: webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/

Address changes must be made within 6 months of your permanent move.

It is easy to find information regarding your registration, polling place, and to see sample ballots by checking the Secretary of State's *Voter Information Center*. There are links on the Township's website as well.

Urban Myths

Every ballot counts! Many times residents tell us that they "heard that Absent Voter Ballots aren't counted unless the race is close." Every ballot counts and every ballot is counted! Absent Voter ballots are held at the Township offices until Election Day and then sent to be counted at their corresponding precinct along with those that are cast in the polls. The only time AV ballots cannot be counted is when they are received after the 8 p.m. deadline on Election Night. Please allow several days for the Postal Service to deliver your ballot if you are returning it by mail.

Are you a 'Snowbird'?

Every spring a number of absent 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.



Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project

The long-term solution is to install a Super Oxygenation System at the lift station

Scio Township contracts with the City of Ann Arbor to receive the Township’s sanitary sewer flows. Sewer odors from the Township’s sewer main at Maple Road and Dexter Avenue have been reported and verified. These are specific to the City of Ann Arbor and do not affect Scio Township residents. The odors are coming from the discharge side of a Scio-owned sanitary sewer lift station at Jackson Avenue and Zeeb Road.

OHM Advisors, the Township’s Engineering Consultants has been assisting the Township with an odor control evaluation that began in Fall of 2015. The Township and OHM have determined short-term and long-term solutions to minimize odors. The short-term and most expedient solution is the use of a liquid phase treatment system at the lift station’s wet well, located nearest Zeeb and Jackson Roads. The long-term solution is to install a Super Oxygenation System at the lift station. The long-term solution is anticipated to be installed in Spring 2017.



Coal Tar Driveway Sealants Banned

The purpose of the ban on coal tar products is aimed at protecting, restoring, and preserving the quality of its waters and protect the health of its residents

Earlier this year Scio Township joined a growing number of governments across the country and acted to ban the use to coal tar products as driveway and parking

lot sealants, (ARTICLE VII. - USE OF COAL TAR BASED SEALER PRODUCTS – (Ord. No. 2016-1, 6-14-2016) - Scio Township Code of Ordinances.



The use of sealers on asphalt driveways is a common practice. However, scientific studies on the use of driveway sealers have demonstrated a relationship between the use of coal tar-based sealers and certain health and environmental concerns, including increased cancer risk to humans and impaired water quality in streams.

The purpose of the ban on coal tar products is aimed at protecting, restoring, and preserving the quality of its waters and protect the health of its residents.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s office is investigating several complaints that at least one contractor has been using coal tar on contracts with local residents. If you have questions please contact the Township at 734-369-9400 or the Sheriff’s Station at 1055 North Zeeb Road; 734-994-8105.

A Busy Spring!

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program closed four purchases this Spring.

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program closed four purchases this Spring.

The first two were tied together: purchase of a one acre "strip" parcel (16.5' wide—one "rod" using old survey terms—and one-half mile long!) and purchase of a conservation easement on 32 acres, both from Dale & Julie Frey. Part of the easement area has been owned by Dale's family for over 150 years. The strip parcel fronts on Liberty Rd. and is adjacent to the township's Wild Preserve. The conservation easement includes farm fields and woods and is adjacent to the protected Parker farm. The Freys also graciously conveyed an access easement along the boundary of part of the conservation easement land to provide a connection between the strip parcel and another strip (25-35' wide) that is part of an unnamed woods purchased by the township as a preserve in 2015. These conveyances will allow for a two-mile-long trail to be constructed. The purchases were funded entirely by the township's dedicated land preservation millage.

The township purchased a conservation easement on 44 acres on Park Rd. from the Dam Tsig Foundation, which operates White Lotus Farm on Liberty Rd. The Founda-

tion intends to lease the land to White Lotus on a long term renewable basis to continue its organic crop growing operation and begin growing hay for their goats that are milked for cheese made on Liberty. This is the second organic operation that has been supported with township resources. Funds for this purchase were provided from the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (39%) and the Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program (17%) as well as the township millage.

The fourth purchase was also with the Freys, a conservation easement on 35 acres of woods directly north of the 32 acres and between the Parker farm and the township wooded preserve. All of this land has been in the Frey family for over 150 years. This area in the southwestern part of the township has one of the three large woodland complexes left, and is the headwaters area for several branches of Honey Creek, a tributary of the Huron River. The total of contiguous protected land in that area is now 337 acres! This purchase was also funded entirely by the township's millage.

More closings are cued up for the middle of this year so stay tuned!

BY DAVID READ, TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Straight Party voting explained

When a voter selects the "straight party" option, all candidates running in the selected party will receive his or her vote.

In the last few months, there have been several changes in Michigan's election law.

In January, the Michigan legislature eliminated the Straight Party voting option. However, recently, the Appellate Court overturned that decision. For the upcoming General election you will be able to use the Straight Party option. This option allows a voter to select (i.e.: vote for) all candidates for a particular party running in partisan races by filling in the circle next to the candidates name.

This option does not affect non-partisan races such as Judges and Proposals; the voter must still make individual selections in these races.

There are some races for which the voter is allowed to select more than one candidate, such as the State Board of Education or University of Michigan Regents. In these races, the voter is instructed to "Vote for not more than 2" or "Vote for not more than 3" depending on the race and the number of open positions. When a voter selects the "straight party" option, all candidates running in the selected party will receive his or her vote. In the case of the University of Michigan Regents (Vote for no more than

2), the two candidates in the selected party will automatically receive a vote. Michigan law also allows a voter in the General election to split their vote between members of different parties – this is called a Split Ticket

Split Ticket voting

Split tickets are only allowed in General Elections. They can be a little confusing to straight party voters in the races where voters are asked to vote for more than one candidate. In the case of the University of Michigan Regents, there are two candidates from each of several parties running for the two open positions. If a Straight Party voter wants to vote a split ticket and vote for both a Republican and a Democrat in the Regents race, he or she must mark the circle next to both of their selected candidates. For example, if the voter selected the Republican Straight Party option, they now must mark the circle next to the Republican and Democrat of their choice. Marking only the Democratic candidate for Regent will mean that none of the Republicans in the Regents race will get a vote.

If you have questions about this or any election related matter, feel free to contact the Clerk's office at 369-9400.



Above: Gravel trucks delivering material for local road improvement.

Photo by Scott Hedburg

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Get involved in your community

Photo by Nancy Hedburg

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

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

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

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; wrc@wcroads.org

County Commissioner:

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

State Information:

State Representative

District 52 - Gretchen Driskell
(800) 627-5052 ; gretchendriskell@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:

Barack H. Obama
(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.

Editor Bryce Kelley

Graphic Design
Julie Tanguay

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David Read



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

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Postmaster: leave with current resident

This community-oriented event is planned and presented as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating

THE SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

29th Annual Halloween Party

The Scio Township Fire Department will be hosting its 29th Annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00. This community-oriented event is planned and presented as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating.

Prizes, games and entertainment

Each child will be given an opportunity to select their favorite treats from a wide assortment of goodies. Colors the Clown will be on hand to delight and entertain the children with magic tricks and balloon animals. She is also bringing the ever-popular petting zoo that features an array of both domestic and exotic animals. Other entertainment attractions include the Giant Slide, a Moon Walk and assorted games. Refreshments, consisting of seasonal favorites like donuts and apple cider, will be served throughout the afternoon. As always, this event is funded by donations received from the local business community and individual supporters of the fire department. These donations are used exclusively to purchase treats and prizes and to defray the cost of refreshments, supplies, and entertainment.



Follow the yellow brick road to the Fire Department

Photo by David Read