



SPECIAL REPORT
MARCH 2020



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

FELLOW SCIO CITIZENS-

This newsletter is not the usual spring edition that we had anticipated, but as we all know these times are anything but "usual." We find ourselves in unprecedented circumstances, out of our normal routines, and wondering what will happen next. For the safety and protection of both our employees and our residents, the Township Board is limiting staff numbers and hours, has shifted most public interaction to phone and email contacts, and remains committed to continuing to provide the essential and legally mandated functions of your Township government.

Water and sewer bills will not be sent this month and no one will experience a penalty or shut-off for lack of payment while the state of emergency is in effect.

Amid this growing national public health crisis, Andrew Houde assumed the duties and responsibilities of fire chief for Scio Township on Monday, March 9. Andy comes to us from Harrison Township where he had been a battalion chief for 10 years. He is a very professional, capable, and personable addition to our staff. We are very excited to have him on board, leading the fire operations for Scio Township.

BY JACK KNOWLES, SUPERVISOR

My column normally occupies the front page, however due to what we are all experiencing, I felt it important that the following information provided by our fire chief take precedence over all other matters. The safety of our citizens is paramount at this time. Please follow the latest national and state directives on social contacts. I trust and pray that we as a township, and as a nation, will ultimately come through this crisis stronger and more united than we entered it.

LETTER FROM SCIO FIRE CHIEF

BY FIRE CHIEF ANDREW HOUDE

As everyone is likely aware, COVID-19 is spreading through the United States at a rapid rate. I would like everyone to know that the Scio Township Fire Department is carefully monitoring the situation and has in place procedures to ensure that we are able to continue to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the community throughout this public health crisis.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE DOING TO MAKE SURE WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY:

- Our dispatchers are screening all callers for symptoms of COVID-19 infection

- We have closed the fire station to visitors and are asking that people with non-urgent business with the fire department do so by appointment only. The phone number at the station is (734) 665-6001
- If the ambulance arrives at a call before the fire truck, fire staff will assist without entering the building or area, unless requested to by ambulance personnel. An exception will be made if the situation is deemed immediately life threatening
- We have in place personal protective equipment procedures that will allow us to treat a potentially infected person, preventing the infection from spreading to fire personnel

- We have a robust mutual aid system with area fire departments that will allow for fire protection in the event our personnel do become infected and/or quarantined

As of now, none of your firefighters have had an exposure to or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 infection. We believe that with the procedures currently in place we have minimized risk of exposure and will be able to keep all of our firefighters serving you. The situation and our procedures will undoubtedly change over the coming days and weeks. As further guidance comes from State and Federal officials, we will continue to adjust our preparedness to meet best practices. We continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis.



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

To Scio Neighbor

COPING WITH STRESS DURING INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

These are anxious times.. Here are a few tips on relieving stress.

- **Keep things in perspective:** take time away from the news to focus on things in your life that are going well and that you can control
- **Get the facts:** rely on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov), the World Health Organization (WHO.int/en), and the Washtenaw County Health Department, www.Washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19

AND REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR CENSUS FORMS. NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE WANT ALL OUR SCIO RESIDENTS COUNTED!

- **Take care of your physical health** by exercising and eating healthy foods. Check out Michigan.gov/DNR to find inspiration for outdoor activities
- **Take care of your mental health,** by focusing on positive parts of your life, connecting with loved ones by phone or internet, and taking breaks from virus-related news
- **Take time to renew your spirit** through meditation, prayer, or helping others in need

- **For parents with school-age children:** Try to create a new routine, alternating learning activities and relaxing or fun activities

Source: <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

OTHER RESOURCES

- Washtenaw County news, www.washtenaw.org
- Call United Way of Washtenaw County at 2-1-1 for information about housing, food, and other basic needs.
- Small business resources: sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19

DEMOCRACY IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

During the current public health emergency, our Township shall continue to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services, and to operate our drinking water and wastewater systems. We also shall continue to support the mechanics of democracy in our Township.

In recognition of the significant disruptions in voters' daily lives due to the current emergency, we have cancelled the Special Election for May 5. Recently, 2500 voters on the Permanent List of Absent Voters received an Absent Voter Ballot Application for the since-cancelled May election. To those of you who have already returned your applications to vote absentee, rest assured that any Scio voter who wants to vote absentee in

August will have the opportunity to do so, either via applications already submitted or by a new application for August.

Since there will be no election on May 5, the proposed Parks and Pathways millage shall appear on the August 4 State Primary ballot, along with other issues and candidates for state and local offices, including candidates for the office of Township Trustee (4), Clerk, Supervisor, and Treasurer. All candidates must file a Nominating Petition or submit the relevant fee and an Affidavit of Identity in person with the clerk here at Township Hall, no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, April 21. Send inquiries to clerk@sciotownship.org or make an appointment to file for candidacy by calling 734-369-9400 Monday – Friday 9-4.

Check the website www.sciotownship.org for information about public meetings, and ways to participate via phone or internet. Your local government continues to work for you. We will carry on throughout these difficult times and through the long haul of recovery ahead.

TOWNSHIP HALL

827 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400
website: sciotownship.org
Current hours: Mon-Fri, 9a -4p
by appointment only