



# Scio Info

Township of Scio • Established 1833 • Summer 2004 Edition

## New Tools For Protecting Open Spaces

*Greenbelt Plan is Part of the Solution, by Laura Rubin, HRWC*

This past November residents of the City of Ann Arbor passed a unique and progressive millage that will help to preserve open space in the City limits and to purchase development rights in the surrounding townships. Proposal B authorized a .5 mill tax for 30 years, to replace the existing Land Acquisition Millage of .5 mill that expires in 2004. The millage will provide funds to preserve and protect open space, natural habitats, and the City's source waters inside and outside the City limits.

The preservation of open space resulting from the millage will help relieve the impacts of development in the areas around Ann Arbor that have led to fragmented open space and wildlife habitat; loss of productive farmland and forestland; destruction of rural beauty that is part of the region's character; decline in water quality due to increased polluted runoff in the Huron River watershed; loss of wetlands; increased auto dependency, fuel consumption, and air pollution; relocation of jobs to peripheral areas; increased traffic congestion, commuting times and costs;



## Scio Info

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## Scio Info

### Township Officials

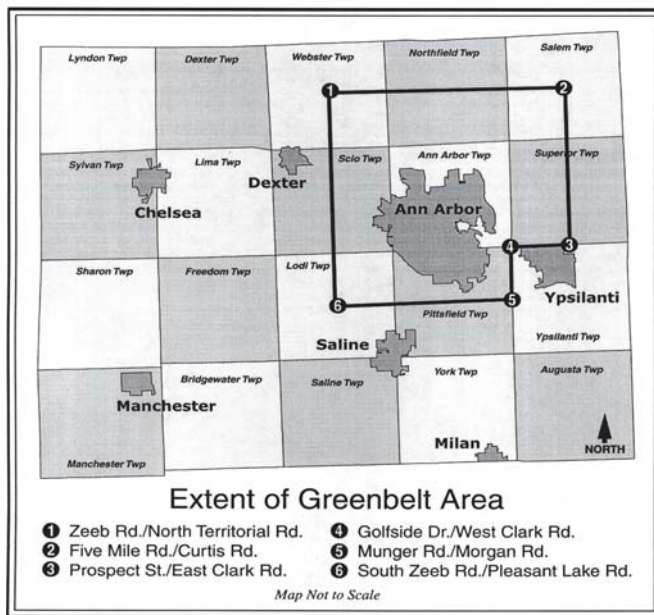
- Supervisor, E. Spaulding Clark*
- Clerk, Gay F. Kenschuh*
- Treasurer, Donna E. Palmer*
- Trustee, James M. Cameron*
- Trustee, Gordon Darr*
- Trustee, Charles Ream*
- Trustee, Jerry S. Schleicher*

overcrowded schools; and excessive public costs for school construction, roads and utility extensions to dispersed development.

### IMPACT ON THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

City residents voted overwhelmingly for the millage. About one-third of millage revenues will be used to purchase land and conservation easements both within the City limits and inside a greenbelt boundary line outside of the City for the preservation of open space (see map). Two-thirds of millage revenues will continue to be used for the acquisition of parkland as previously approved under the existing millage. Purchases of land, land rights and conservation easements outside the City for the preservation of open space will be made using all available funding sources, such as joint purchase agreements with property owners, townships, cities, and Washtenaw County; grant funds available from the State of Michigan and the federal government, conservancies and land trusts. For transactions outside the city, purchases will be favored in which the City of Ann Arbor's share of the cost is no more than one-third of the land's appraised value. Acquisitions in which a township or city provides funds will be favored. The principal acquisition method is anticipated to be conservation easements.

### GREENBELT AREA MAP



### TOWNSHIP INVOLVEMENT

As part of this effort to preserve open space the Huron River Watershed Council also applauds the residents of Ann Arbor Township who passed a township PDR millage and the residents of Scio Township who, at the time of this printing, are presenting a township PDR millage proposal.

The HRWC supports the establishment of a greenbelt around the City of Ann Arbor for the purposes of open space protection and, as part of these efforts, is also urging the City to move quickly to develop a comprehensive and inclusive strategy to implement the proposed plan. The implementation needs to address some key concerns: acquisition of ecologically beneficial lands; appropriate development locations and densities; affordable housing; city parks acquisition and maintenance; appropriate management of lands; and appropriate densities where municipal services are available. (note: this process is now complete)

We feel strongly that these issues need to be addressed as the greenbelt proposal is implemented in order for the proposal to have the intended effects of preserving open space, en-

## SCIO INFO

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*E. Spaulding Clark, Editor*

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couraging growth in the urban areas, and sustaining the vibrant and high quality of life that Ann Arbor provides.

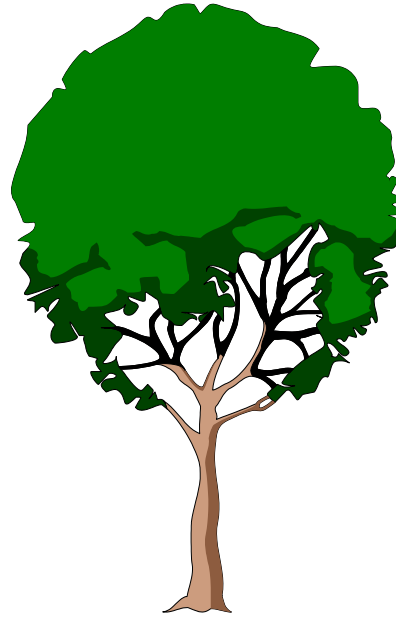
Open space protection and greater densities in urban areas results in a healthier watershed. Congratulations to all who have made this happen.

## *Scio Briefs* and pieces and more...

### **Farmland and Greenspace Forum**

**September 25th**

The Farm Bureau Land Use Committee and interested residents of Scio have planned a Forum for Saturday, September 25th from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at the Scio Township Hall, and they are hopeful the residents of Scio will be interested in attending. The purpose of the Forum will be to share information about the Scio Township Farmland and Open Space Land Preservation Millage in advance of the November elections where it will appear on the ballot. They have invited Gordon Hayward, a land planner who has worked with Peninsula Township for many years, and who is extremely knowledgeable about how a millage like this works at the township level. Gordon was invited in last year for a similar forum that was held prior to the A2 Greenbelt initiative and the A2 Township millage. He was adept at answering the many questions attendees had with respect to the millages and how they affected land purchases, etc., in his township. The sponsoring group is pleased that Gordon is willing to come down again to help at this forum. It is also expected that someone from the A2 Township Board will attend, along with the Mayor of Ann Arbor. There will be ample opportunity for people attending to ask question after the presentations. All are aware that this is a Michigan Football Saturday and plan to keep a tight schedule so that those who have tickets can still get an early start for the game.



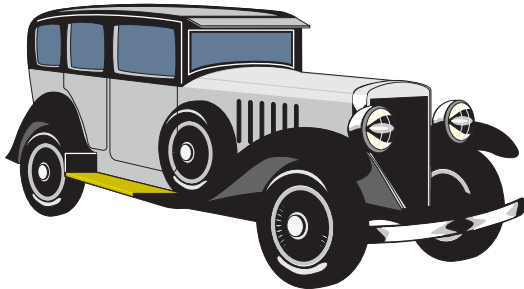
### **Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn...**

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams! While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer that enters our lakes and streams can cause algae to grow and use up oxygen that fish need to survive. So what can you do to help? Simple.

- **Sweep it.** Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.
- **Buy low and go slow.** First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose a fertilizer with no or low phosphorus—phosphorus causes algae growth. You can also use an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water.
- **Hire smart.** Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.

- **Mow high.** Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
- **Make fertilizer-free zones.** Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org) or contact Scio Township at 734-665-2123. Remember, our water is our future – and it’s ours to protect!



### Remember, You’re Not Just Maintaining Your Car

Did you know that just four quarts of oil can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? With over four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan, we all need to practice good car care to protect our lakes and streams.

How does caring for your car affect our waterways? Storm drains found in our streets and yards and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, if motor oil and other fluids are dumped or washed into the storm drain, they pollute our local waterways.

What can you do? Simple.

- **Maintain it.** Keep your vehicle properly tuned and use the owner’s manual to guide decisions about how often it is necessary to change

fluids such as oil and antifreeze.

- **Take advantage of business expertise.** Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.

- **Recycle.** If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers. Then, take them to your community’s household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.

- **Soak it up.** Use kitty litter promptly to absorb small amounts of spilled vehicle fluids. Then sweep it into a bag and throw it in the trash. Don’t leave these spills or wash them off pavement. They’ll be flushed into the storm drains.

- **Do it under cover.** Whenever possible, perform vehicle maintenance in a well-ventilated, but covered location (e.g., garage). This minimizes the potential for rainfall to wash those inevitable spills and drips into our lakes and streams.

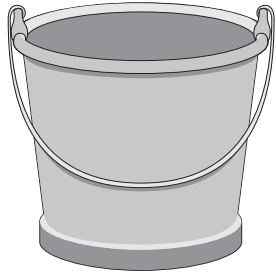
For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org) or contact Scio Township at 734-665-2123. Remember, our water is our future — and it’s ours to protect!

### Remember, You’re Not Just Washing Your Car

Did you know there are over four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan? With that many cars and trucks, we all need to practice good car care to protect our lakes and streams.

How does caring for your car affect our waterways? Storm drains found in our streets and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and streams. If dirty water from washing our cars

gets into the storm drain, it pollutes our local waterways. This “dirty” water contains pollutants such as grease and dirt, and the soap itself contains phosphorus, which can lead to excessive algae growth in our lakes.



What can you do? Simple.

- **Make a date.** Car-wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and streams. So, make a date to take your car to a car wash.
- **Wash it—on the grass.** If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. The lawn will gladly soak up the soapy, dirty water preventing it from entering storm drains or roadside ditches. If you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- **Minimize it.** Reduce the amount of soap you use or wash your car with plain water.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org) or contact Scio Township at 734-665-2123. Remember, our water is our future — and it's ours to protect.

## Grease in the sewer system

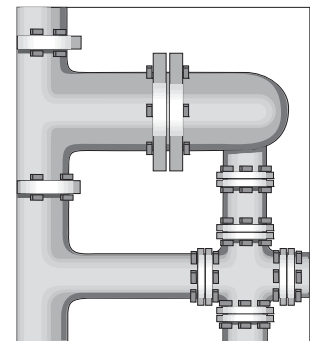
Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage to home interiors, and threaten the environment. Grease is an increasingly common cause of overflows in sewer pipes. Grease gets into the sewer both from households as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and businesses.

## WHERE DOES GREASE COME FROM?

Most of us know grease as the by-product of cooking. Grease is found in such things as: meat fats; lard; cooking oil; shortening; butter and margarine; food scraps; baked goods; sauces and gravies; and dairy products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the sides of sewer pipes both on your property and the sewer mains. Over time, the grease will build up and block the entire pipe. Flushing your drain with hot water only moves grease down the line until it eventually contacts colder water and solidifies.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, only pass the grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.



## THE RESULT CAN BE:

- Raw sewage overflows in your home or your neighbor's home.
- An expensive and unpleasant clean up.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets, rivers and streams.
- Potential contact with disease causing organisms.
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for your sewer department, which can cause increases in sewer bills. *(continued on page 6)*

# Mark your calendar!

## September Meetings

6 - Labor Day	office closed
13 - noon	DDA
13 - 7:30 pm	Planning Commission
15 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
16 - 7:00 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
24 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
28 - 7:00 pm	Planning Commission
30 - 9:00 am	DDA Roads

## October Meetings

11 - noon	DDA
11 - 7:30 pm	Planning Commission
13 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
19 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
21 - 7:00 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
25 - 7:30 pm	Planning Commission
28 - 9:00 am	DDA Roads

## November Meetings

2 - Election Day	
8 - noon	DDA
8 - 7:30 pm	Planning Commission
10 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
16 - 7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
18 - 7:00 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
22 - 7:30 pm	Planning Commission
25 - Thanksgiving	
26 - Office Closed	

## WHAT AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The easiest way to solve this problem and help prevent overflows due to grease blockages is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

- Never pour grease down the sink or toilets.
- Pour excess grease into a can or container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils and grills, and cooking surfaces into a can or container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Do not put grease down the garbage disposal.
- Put baskets/strainers in the sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system, and how keep it out.

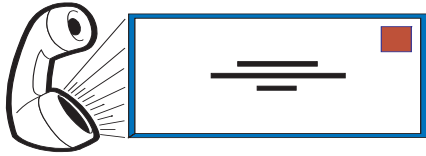
Restaurants, large buildings and other commercial establishments may have grease traps or grease interceptors that keep grease out of the sewer system. For grease trap or interceptor to work correctly it must be properly designed (sized, and manufactured to handle the amount that is expected); installed (level, vented etc.); and maintained, cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis. Solids should never be put into grease traps or interceptors. Routine, sometimes daily, maintenance of grease traps and interceptors is needed to ensure that they properly reduce or prevent blockages.

## FINALLY:

Please join us in the fight against grease in the sewer system. Your help is needed. If you have any questions please contact the Scio Township Utilities Department at 665- 2606. Thank you for your cooperation.

# **Scio Township Businesses**

**These Township Businesses financially support your "Scio Info";  
Please show your support for them.**



# Who's who... ...and where

## TOWNSHIP HALL

827 N. Zeeb Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-665-2123  
734-665-0825 (fax)

*web site: [www.twp.scio.mi.us](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us)*

Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm

## TOWNSHIP STAFF

**ACCOUNTANT:** Sandy Egeler  
**ASSESSOR:** James D. Merte  
**FIRE CHIEF:** Carl A. Ferch  
**OFFICE COORDIN:** Melinda Hart  
**UTILITIES SUPT:** Ray Striz

**Utilities Office:** 665-2606

**Utilities Emergency** 651-4770

**Fire Department Office:** 665-6001

**Sheriff's Zeeb Office:** 994-8105

**Washtenaw Co Road Commission:**  
761-1500

*Correspondence for Township officials and staff, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Commission and Downtown Development Authority should be sent to 827 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.*

**SCIO INFO NEWSLETTER**  
**SCIO TOWNSHIP HALL**  
**827 North Zeeb Rd.**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

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## COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3:

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## COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 9:

Leah Gunn  
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## COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 10:

Vivienne N. Armentrout  
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800-645-1581; gderossett@house.state.mi.us

## STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 18:

Liz Brater  
517-373-2406; SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7:

Nick Smith  
202-225-6276; www.house.gov/nicksmith

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15:

John Dingell  
202-225-4071; www.house.gov/dingell

## U.S. SENATOR:

Debbie Stabenow  
202-224-4822; stabenow.senate.gov

## U.S. SENATOR:

Carl Levin  
202-224-6221; levin.senate.gov

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