

Celebrating Twenty Years of Service

**Fire Station
Open House**
July 19, 2008
1055 North Zeeb
10 am to 2 pm.

This July marks the twentieth anniversary of service to the community by the Scio Township Fire Department. To commemorate this milestone, we will be hosting an Open House. We invite our citizens as well as our many non-resident supporters to join us in this celebration. The Open House will be held at the Fire Station, 1055 N. Zeeb Rd., from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. on July 19, 2008. Soft drinks and assorted snacks will be provided.

Come and meet the fire fighters

During the past twenty years the citizens and firefighters paths have crossed on many different occasions. Most often these are unpleasant and stressful times for both groups. Our open house offers

an opportunity to meet the men and women we all rely so heavily on during an emergency, in a relaxed and personal setting.

Demonstrations and Displays

The fire fleet and a few antique fire trucks from the Michigan Fire House Museum will be on display and accessible for exploration. Our specialized equipment, the Jaws of Life, Automatic External Deliberator and the newest innovation in cardiac life support, the "ResQ Pump", will be demonstrated. For those wanting some first hand experience, selected equipment will be available for our guests to operate. Various organizations that work in conjunction with the fire department, University of Michigan Survival Flight, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and Huron Valley Ambulance will be here to explain their role in keeping the community safe, display their equipment and answer your questions.

Join Us

Come join us on the 19th for an afternoon of fun, celebration and maybe a grilled hot dog prepared by our own firehouse chefs. We are looking forward to seeing you.



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Scio Township

COMMUNITY REPORT

Summer 2008

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY CHARLES NIELSEN

Yes We Can!

Public Safety reminder

Last month you should have received a special edition of the Scio Newsletter, which was dedicated to our Public Safety Committee's final report. This is a vital issue and Scio's biggest challenge at this time. I hope you read it. If not, perhaps it is tucked away under a pile of magazines or in the pile of "mail to read someday". Today would be a good day to read it. You can also access it through our website, which is listed later in this article. It is my hope that you, my boss, will understand the nature of the problem and help support a solution. Your participation will be critical to keeping your children and all of us safe.

Bus service to start on Jackson Blvd.

In an ongoing effort to find ways to improve public services and at minimal or no cost to the taxpayers, the Scio



Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be starting a pilot program for a bus route along Jackson Boulevard and connecting streets. This is something that has been largely absent the last several

years due to the very high cost involved. However, in the search for a solution to this problem there was a sudden breakthrough. People's Express is currently supplying the Township with on demand, "dial a ride" service for income-qualified residents. People's Express is a non-profit organization and for this reason and others, can meet our needs for much less investment. This will be a "Flex Route" which will service the boulevard and areas not far from the boulevard, with connections to other transportation services on the east and west sides of our Township. In

From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2

SCIO FESTIVAL – BY CHUCK REAM, TRUSTEE

A festival for Scio?

Scio Township is no longer just "someplace west of Ann Arbor", we are a community of nearly 20,000 people. We need to establish more community identity, pride, and prosperity - and creating our own "festival" might be a fun and rewarding way to do that.

Clinton Charter Township has the "Festival of the Senses - A Celebration of the Arts", Hamburg Township holds a "Family Fun Fest", Tawas City hosts "Perchville USA", Brighton has a "Chili and Ice Festival" in the winter, Manchester has the Chicken Broil, Ann Arbor has the Art Fairs and Dexter hosts "Dexter Daze". What would we like to do?

A Festival has to start with a theme and a date. What would be a great theme for Scio? Which season would be best? What foods

should be featured? Maybe Scio could hold a "Local Food Festival", where we can purchase and feast upon food made in Washtenaw County. When I sit outdoors at night in early July I am convinced that Scio should have a "Firefly Festival", although I don't know quite where to go with that idea.

Festivals are a Michigan tradition, and can greatly benefit local business. We could show our own residents and interested folks living nearby how great Scio Township is and what we have to offer. We can make a time to relax and enjoy each other as a community, and a growing sense of community identity may spawn other enrichment or beautification projects.

Festivals take a huge amount of work, but Scio citizens are plenty smart, creative, and diligent. If you have a good festival idea please share it with the Township Board at townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us, or drop us a note in the mail. Let's enrich our community, and create great memories for our residents of all ages!



In the interest of servicing the public and local businesses, the DDA will fund this pilot program for its first year.

the interest of servicing the public and local businesses, the DDA will fund this pilot program for its first year. After that, it will depend on local businesses and housing complexes to keep the program going. If enough participants step forward to help, this would not be expensive for any one of them. There has been a growing and pent up need for this service, and I believe the rising cost of gasoline will make this service even more viable than it has been in the past. I urge all of you to contact your Homeowners Association, your landlord, or your employer and express to them the need for this service and that their participation is needed to support it. Together we can make this happen, and maintain it. We should be able to start this service yet this summer. Check our website <http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/> for details.

Local road repairs to get needed funding

Many of our local roads are in dire need of repair. The hard truth is that neither the Washtenaw County Road Commission nor the Township has the funds to keep up with road maintenance. Scio's Local Roads Committee has been working hard to try to find a way to stem the tide. We learned about efforts put forward by other townships and found a successful model in Hamburg Township. They use a Special Assessment District (SAD) program that

could be applied here in Scio in one of several ways. One method would be to ask all taxpayers to pay a dedicated Road Maintenance SAD. In this model, all taxpayers would be paying a small amount to maintain roads throughout the township. A second method would be to set up a SAD for a specific road or neighborhood. Then only the residents on that road or in that neighborhood would be taxed and those funds could only be spent for the specific roads mentioned in the SAD. This keeps the overall tax rate low but allows those who want to improve their neighborhoods to do so at their expense. A similar program has been working in Hamburg Township for several years. With the help of our Downtown Development Authority again, we are working toward starting such a program.

Roads to be repaired in the DDA

The DDA will be working on roads in the DDA District and in cooperation with the Township, will be setting up a funding mechanism for the repair of local roads throughout the Township. This will be done through a Township revolving fund that will be used for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the need to sell bonds to pay for the road repairs. Special Assessments will replenish the fund as paid. This will substantially reduce the total cost of the projects. More information will be provided as we move closer to starting this program. The question will be if we can repair our roads sooner rather than later since later will always be more expensive. But, with the support of our property owners, the answer is "Yes we can."

2008 ELECTION UPDATE – BY KATHLEEN KNOL, CLERK



Election Reminder

Remaining election dates for 2008 are:

August 5, 2008 (primary)

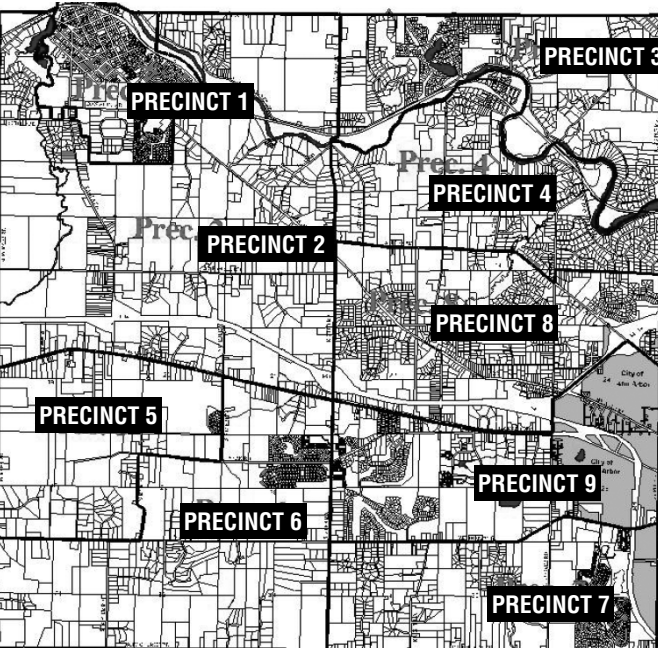
November 4, 2008 (presidential)

Remember, if you haven't registered to vote yet, please do so. You only need to register once (unless you move) and you must be registered at least 30 days before the day of the election. Registration cut off dates for this year are:

July 7, 2008

October 6, 2008

For your reference, I've included in this newsletter a map outlining Scio Township polling sites. Please feel free to remove it from the newsletter and keep it handy.



Confirm your precinct's location

Scio residents will continue to vote in the poll locations they have previously used:

- Precinct 1:** Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor St.
- Precinct 2:** Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 3:** Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 4:** Scio Community Church
1293 N. Zeeb Road
- Precinct 5:** Scio Farms Clubhouse,
6655 Jackson Road
- Precinct 6:** Scio Fire Hall, 1055 N. Zeeb
- Precinct 7:** WISD, 1819 S. Wagner Rd.
- Precinct 8:** Washtenaw County Road Commission
555 North Zeeb Road
- Precinct 9:** Polo Fields Clubhouse
5200 Polo Fields Dr.

To download and print a larger version of our precinct map go to: www.twp.scio.mi.us – and click on – **Voting Locations**

Don't forget to vote!

Summer greetings!

Planning activities in Scio Township have picked up as we move into the summer season. Applications for development have increased since last writing and current projects are summarized below. Also, significant time at Planning Commission meetings of late has been devoted to master planning.

Eat Local Eat Natural Grocery Store

Application has been received for “Conditional Rezoning” from I-1 zoning to C-2 zoning to allow for the conversion of the existing building at 3685 Jackson Road to a grocery store. This is currently a vacant brick building on the south side of Jackson just east of Dunning Toyota and Nancy Drive. The business concept is to provide the local community the opportunity to buy fresh, organic and unprocessed foods grown by local farmers. The goal is to rehabilitate the existing building incorporating green technologies such as geothermal, wind and solar energy for heating and cooling of the building and for cooling of the freezers and refrigerators.

Kensington Woods

Last year a request for rezoning of 19.2 acres to MR-1 was approved and the applicant is back before the Planning Commission requesting site plan approval. The proposed residential development of 72 dwelling units in 36 duplex buildings fronts the north side of Scio Church Road and is adjacent to and west of I-94. The construction will consist of 3 phases – the first including the entry drive, detention pond and 5 of the 36 buildings (10 units).

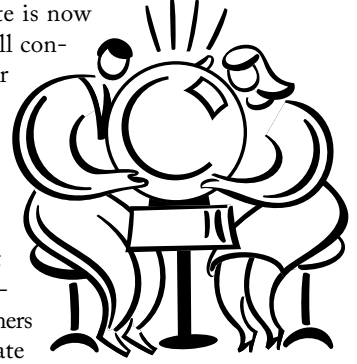
CVS Drugstore

At the beginning of this year, 3.92 acres at the southeast corner of Zeeb and Jackson was rezoned from C-3 to C-2 commercial. The rezoning was sought by the owner to allow for a pharmacy with a drive-thru component. The site is currently partially occupied by Wendy’s Restaurant. The plan calls for clearing the site to make way for a CVS Drugstore on the corner and rebuilding Wendy’s south of the new drugstore. As of this writing, the next step in

the process, site plan approval, had not yet been initiated by the applicant.

Share your vision for the future of Scio Township

The Master Plan Update is now in full discussion and will continue as an agenda item over the next several Planning Commission meetings. The vision for the Jackson and Baker Road corridors is under development and commands a significant share of the master planning dialogue. Commissioners are working to incorporate current adopted Township documents, such as the Baker Road Corridor Study, the results of the Township survey and the Economic Study commissioned by the Downtown Development Association (DDA) as well as other studies conducted since our last master plan update.

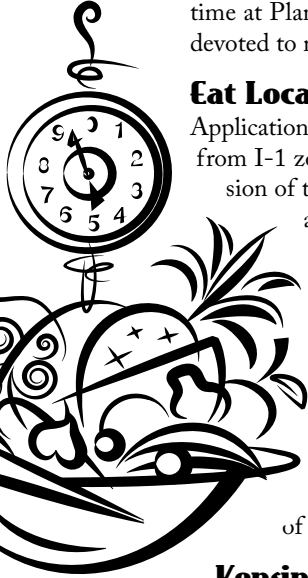


Get involved

Come out and participate in our meetings. Every Planning Commission meeting includes public comment segments at the beginning and the end of the agenda. Check the agenda online or call the Township Hall for further information.

Call for comments

The Scio Township Board of Trustees (BOT) has been asked to establish a noise ordinance that would, among others things, ban the use of engine braking (“jake braking”) within the Township. The BOT would like to have your view on such a noise ordinance. Please contact them via mail, email or phone with your input (contact information available on page 7).



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What can I do about the environment?

Whether you call it “global warming” or “climate change”, it’s pretty clear that many of us want to do something about our air quality, about pollution in our streams and groundwater, and about household wastes that get dumped into our watersheds and landfills.

Governments have a role but individuals can make a difference

Sure, each of us can say it’s a job for government to regulate pollution and energy efficiency and emissions and urban runoff, and to establish rules about recycling and returnables. Our Federal and State governments have big roles, like regulating the emissions from power plants and refineries and requiring high gas mileage and low emissions for motor vehicles. Scio Township has a role too: we promote recycling and re-use, regulate drainage and water retention for new developments, enforce wetland regulations and preserve natural features and open space.

All good things, but individuals and households, like yours and mine, can have a big impact too, through our personal choices and actions. The following are a few tips on things you can do to help.

Reduce water pollution

Make your home “RiverSafe”. Janis Bobrin, our Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, has created the “RiverSafe” Homes program to help local residents identify water quality protection activities they currently practice around their homes, and to commit to additional pollution prevention practices that they may not have considered before. The “RiverSafe” program shows how we can help by reducing lawn fertilizer use, picking up after pets, caring for our vehicles and by properly using and disposing of home toxics. Participation is easy – just fill out a simple survey on line at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/. Participants who complete the survey will receive a snazzy “RiverSafe Home” decal to display at their doorstep. If your home has a septic system, get it inspected regularly. If it needs repair, get it fixed. Outdated or malfunctioning home septic systems have been a major source of surface water pollution. Washtenaw County provides excellent guidelines on septic system care at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environmental_health/wells_septic/ch_septicmaintenance.html.



...individuals and households, like yours and mine, can have a big impact too, through our personal choices and actions.

Combine trips and shop locally

Reduce your auto fuel use by combining several errands into a single trip. Instead of driving to the hardware store, then home, then to the coffee shop and then to the grocery store and home again, combine your trips into one. You’ll save gas, money, wear and tear and precious time.

Shop and play locally. Most of what you need, things like groceries, hardware, kitchen supplies, lawnmower parts, fine dining, ice cream treats, and newly released movies, can be found right here in Scio. No need to use a lot of gas to drive into the city and pay to park. And if you have a question about where to find something, check the web or your yellow pages to see if a local business has what you need.

Slow down

Driving at the speed limit and taking a little bit longer to accelerate to the limit can make a real difference in your city mileage, and you’ll still get to work on time.



Share a ride

Car-pooling and van-pooling are great ways to save time, gas and wear and tear on the family car. Perhaps you can relax and ride with a neighbor or co-worker instead of coping with the stress of driving to and from work or school every day. SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, has an excellent car and van-pool matching service; check it out at <http://www.semco.org/RideShare.aspx>, or call SEMCOG at 313-961-4266.

Recycle

Scio runs a recycling event for households every third Saturday, from 8 to noon. Participation has grown every month. Bring your discarded newspapers, glass, metal and plastic containers. Flattening plastic containers saves space in our drop off bins and saves the gas we might use to bring up a new empty container. Substitute Scio tap water for bottled water when you can, and you won’t have to crush so many containers!



Keep Toxics out of the landfill

Dispose of your home toxics, like fertilizer, oil based paints, insecticides and used fluorescent bulbs at Washtenaw County’s Home Toxics Center,





located at the Western County Service center, at 705 North Zeeb Road in Scio Township. The Center is open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon (excluding holidays) from May through November. Check the web for winter hours.

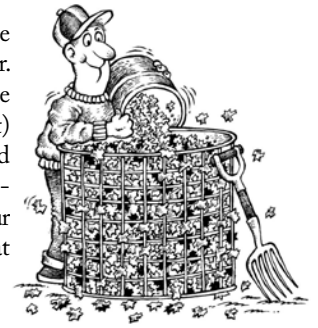
Convert to CFLs

Replace your old incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps, CFLs. I've found that a 23 watt CFL produces the same amount of light as a 60 watt incandescent bulb, and uses less than half of the energy. Note, however, that CFLs contain a tiny bit of mercury, and should be disposed of at the County's Home Toxics Center when they wear out.

Compost your compostables

Don't use your kitchen garbage grinder to dispose of kitchen waste such as potato peels, coffee grounds, that

last bit of celery in the back of the refrigerator. Ground kitchen waste adds volume (and cost) to your septic system and our municipal sewer system. Try composting your kitchen waste. It's great for the garden!



We can make a difference

Some simple tips, to be sure, but if more of us use our common sense about our environment, we can make a difference. If enough of us get involved, maybe it'll become a movement, but that's another tune.

SCIO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – BY SCOTT MARTIN

Scio Construction Projects

This is the primary line feeding the Township and should help ensure that Scio is able to obtain the needed supply of water for its customers.

Scio Township's 1,000,000 Gallon Water Tower

The Township's water tower, located on Jackson Road at the western edge of the Township, was inspected last year and it was determined that certain repairs and upgrades were needed. This tower is a vital piece of the Township's water distribution system. It serves as storage for times of high demand and for fire fighting purposes. The inspection revealed that the inside ladder had to be replaced due to ice damage over the years. A painter's rail was added to the outside of the roof. The tower was painted for the first time in 16 years. A floating, cathodic protection was added inside the tank to aid in corrosion control. Several other smaller repairs were done on the tower as well.

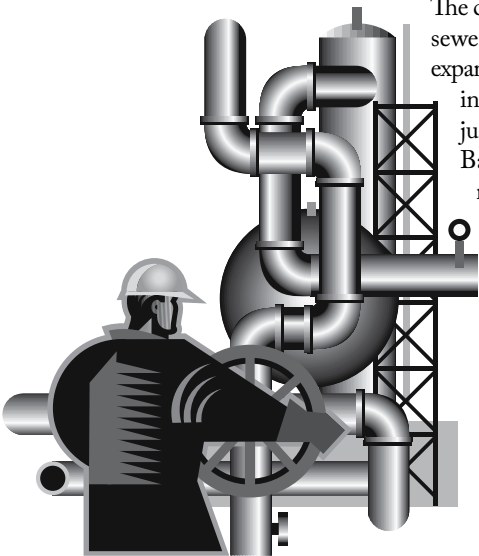
Jackson Road Phase III Utilities

The construction of both a water main and a sanitary sewer line began in June. As part of the boulevard expansion, Scio Township will be replacing and upsizing the utilities located along Jackson Road from just past Zeeb (in front of Lowe's) to just west of Baker Road. The project consists of a new water main being placed on both sides of the road and a new sanitary sewer that will run down the middle of the boulevard. It is anticipated that most of the utility work will be done this year while the construction of the roadway will take two years. Staking and locating of the utility services for individual properties has been ongoing by the Scio Utilities Department over the past few months. The Scio Utilities Department and its representatives will be on site to inspect this construction and it is anticipated that the new utilities will be in service and fully

functional this winter. Customers along this route should experience minimal interruption and should be notified if there is going to be a planned shutdown of the water. We would ask for your cooperation during this very large and important project. If you experience an unexpected loss of water, please contact 734-665-2606.

Pipes I, II and III - Miller/Maple Transmission Main

In order to better serve Scio Township and provide much needed redundancy to the water supply system, the City of Ann Arbor started a project earlier this spring to construct a new transition main from the drinking water plant located off Sunset Road in the city to the intersection of Miller and Maple Road. This is the primary line feeding the Township and should help ensure that Scio is able to obtain the needed supply of water for its customers. The project is slated to continue through the summer and be completed this fall. The construction contract is being funded by Scio Township but administered by Ann Arbor. Scio was able to obtain a low interest loan through the State Drinking Water Revolving fund to help keep costs for this project as low as possible.



2008 Summer Tax Bills

You may have already received the 2008 Summer Tax Bills; if not, they will be arriving soon. I want to thank all of you who took the time, over the past few months, to ensure we had your correct mailing address on file. However, because of the ever-increasing cost of postage, we may be forced to change our policy on the re-mailing of “returned” tax bills. I will monitor the summer billing and the associated “returns” closely.

Let us know...

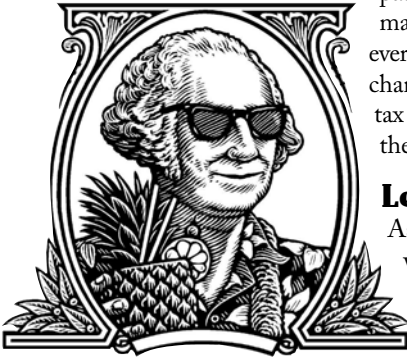
As a reminder, summer bills are mailed the last week in June. If you do not have your bill by July 15th, please call the Township office. We will verify the records and mail

another copy to you. If you go away for the summer (or winter) months, please be sure to let us know. You can give us a secondary address to use during your absence, or simply tell us that you will be “out of town”. This enables us to use a different envelope that will allow a forwarding order to go through.

Special handling option

Of course, we can still do a “special handling” to get the original or a duplicate mailing to you. This is especially useful for those with land contracts or whose elderly relatives might need assistance with their finances.

Thanks again for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or stop by the Township Hall.



REVENUE SHARING – BY MTA (MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION)

Revenue Sharing and You

...as we look to future years, with skyrocketing gas prices and people cutting back on extras, revenue from sales tax could decrease, further impacting our revenue sharing funding and local services.

It's possible that you have heard the term “revenue sharing” mentioned in the news. Like many terms, it may come across as one of those “government” words that you don't completely understand and you wonder what all the fuss is about. Did you know that revenue sharing helps pay for essential services that keep you safe or that revenue sharing helps us maintain the roads within the township? It does these things and much more. Revenue sharing has a direct impact on you as a resident of Scio Township.

What exactly is revenue sharing?

Revenue sharing is money that local governments, such as townships, cities, villages and counties, receive from the state. Revenue sharing was established in 1946 by a vote of the people through a constitutional amendment to replace and relieve local taxation. The state promised to give local governments a portion of the money it received from other state taxes, including sales and income taxes, and the Single Business Tax. The primary purpose of revenue sharing, when first implemented, was to limit local taxing authority while increasing state taxing authority, with the idea that a predetermined amount would be shared with local government. Revenue sharing provides a basic level of funding for services to all cities, villages and townships, and to a few counties.

Funds for critical services

Revenue sharing was designed to be flexible, non-restricted funding that a community could use

to best fit its needs. Local communities rely on revenue sharing to pay for services that directly impact your life. It is used to help fund police and fire protection as well as roads, water, sewer services and a variety of other essential local services.

The future of Revenue Sharing is uncertain

Revenue sharing funding, although promised by the state, is also at the mercy of the state's economy and the amount of revenue the state takes in each year. In recent years, funding for revenue sharing has seen dramatic cuts as the state's economy has lagged. And as we look to future years, with skyrocketing gas prices and people cutting back on extras, revenue from sales tax could decrease, further impacting our revenue sharing funding and local services. As lawmakers in Lansing battle over the 2008-09 fiscal year budget, which begins on Oct. 1, 2008, revenue sharing is once again a high profile topic. Now more than ever, money that local communities rely on to pay for essential services that directly impact your lives is continually being threatened. It is important that the township, on behalf of their residents, receives the appropriate level of funding to assist with local services.

Speak out

Here in Scio Township, we are doing all we can to make sure our representatives in Lansing are aware of how revenue sharing impacts our community. Just like you are counting on us to make this community a wonderful place to live, we are counting on Lansing lawmakers to make sure we receive proper funding from the state. Please let them know what you think as well (see contact information at the end of this newsletter).





Get involved in your community

Scio Township Information

Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 665-2123; 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.

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Kathleen Knol, Clerk
Donna Palmer, Treasurer
Jim Dries, Trustee
Jean Ledwith King, Trustee
David Nacht, Trustee
Charles Ream, Trustee
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Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM 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

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Scott Martin – Utilities Director (734) 665-2606
James Merte – Assessing (734) 665-2123

Phone Numbers

Emergencies 911
Fire Department
Administration (734) 665-6001
Sheriff's Department,
Zeeb Road Sub-Station (734) 994-8105
Utilities Emergency (734) 651-4770
Utilities Administration (734) 665-2606
County Building Inspection Services . . . (734) 222-3900
County Drain Commissioner: (734) 994-2525

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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