

# Scio Township

Winter 2010

COMMUNITY REPORT

## In this issue:

From The Supervisor's Desk . . . . . 1

Be Sure to be Counted . . . . . 1

Electronic Newsletter Delivery . . . . . 3

Clerk's Corner . . . . 3

Get Involved. . . . . 3

Planning Commission Update . . . . . 4

Land Preservation Update . . . . . 6

Photo Contest . . . . 6

Contacts . . . . . 7

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK – BY SPAULDING CLARK, SUPERVISOR

## Township Updates

### Improving Public Safety service

In dealing with both police and fire issues, the Township Board has been guided by the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee. That Committee made its formal recommendations to the Township in 2008 with regard to both fire and police services. With the passage of a fire millage in November of 2008, the Township began the process of implementing the Public Safety Committee's recommendations with regard to fire services. We are currently in the process of adding personnel where necessary and purchasing updated equipment including a new fire engine and an EMS support vehicle. The passage of the fire millage allowed the Township to then reallocate resources to the police function by hiring the additional Sheriff's deputies. We have developed an excellent working relationship with Jerry Clayton, our new Sheriff, along with his command and administrative staff members, all of whom have been of great assistance in our effort to improve policing in the Township.

### Police service upgrades

The Township Board will continue its commitment to investigate ways in which we can improve services and/or lower costs for our citizens. In the arena of police services, Washtenaw County has now approved a modification of our current police services contract, allowing Scio to add three additional Sheriff's deputies as of the first of the year. The approval of the County Board of Commissioners was required, in part because the existing contract had no provisions for increasing (or decreasing) deputies. The approval of Scio's request was likely facilitated by the fact that Ypsilanti Township, given their financial difficulties, was seeking to eliminate seven deputies from their contract with the County. The current cost of a single deputy under the contract is \$144,803. With the addition of the three deputies, there will now be a total of eight deputies assigned to Scio. As a result, Scio can now expect to be covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with a minimum of one deputy present at all times; however, the majority of the time the Township will have two deputies on duty ready to serve the Township's needs.



*From The Supervisor's Desk continued on page 2*

## Be Sure to be Counted

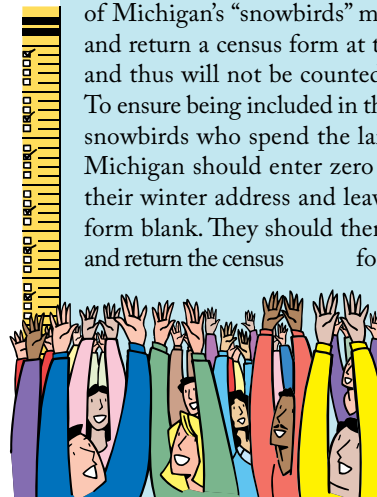
April 1, 2010 is "Census Day," when an effort will be made to count every person residing in the United States. Accurate data is important for local government because the federal government uses the collected data to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds for community programs and services. It also is used to determine how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives. Locally the data is used to plan for schools, public buildings, transportation, roads and many other projects. The Census form is simple to fill out so upon receipt, complete it and mail it back. It will only take a few minutes.

### Census workers may be in the area

Starting in May and continuing through July, census takers will be visiting households that did not return a questionnaire by mail. Unfortunately, the Census affords an opportunity for the unscrupulous to attempt to obtain confidential information. However, all Census takers will be identified by a name badge and will never ask you for personal data such as your social security number or bank account information.

### Answers are confidential and you can make a difference

The 2010 census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in history. The answers to the questionnaire are protected by law and are confidential. Many of Michigan's "snowbirds" may mistakenly complete and return a census form at their southern residence, and thus will not be counted as Michigan residents. To ensure being included in the Michigan count, those snowbirds who spend the largest part of the year in Michigan should enter zero as the number living at their winter address and leave the rest of the census form blank. They should then make sure they fill out and return the census form that was delivered to their usual residence in Michigan. The census results will impact every person in Michigan. Fill out the form and you can make a difference.



### Fire Department discussions

As I have noted in preceding articles, informal discussions continue with regard to consolidating fire services in the western Washtenaw area.

The Townships of Scio, Dexter, Webster and the Village of Dexter continue to meet to discuss interrelated issues. Professor Lynn Harvey of MSU, who has assisted in a substantial number of successful public service consolidation efforts over the years, and who likely knows more about the subject than anyone else in the state, is facilitating the process. Recently Professor Harvey has been joined by Chief Rick Royston of the Delhi Township Fire Department, to assist in some of the details relating to the provision of fire services. The process is moving slowly as there is no specific timetable or deadline. Rather, we expect to examine all aspects and issues that can be anticipated in any potential consolidation.



**Our state government has long buried its head in the sand with regard to our road system, reputedly the worst in the nation, so it seems unlikely that we can expect any remedy at the state government level. Either we find a solution ourselves or it won't happen.**

### Public utilities expansion

And as also noted in previous newsletter issues, the Township continues to examine our future need for additional wastewater capacity to address future planned growth within specifically designated areas of the Township. We continue to meet regularly with representatives of the Ann Arbor Utilities Department, seeking to resolve currently outstanding issues and preparing for our future. While those discussions have yet to be concluded, we have enjoyed a collaborative working relationship with the City of Ann Arbor in regard to our water and wastewater utility services, and look forward to a continued working relationship with the City. The Township is currently in discussion with the City of Ann Arbor to determine whether the City has the additional capacity to satisfactorily meet our future wastewater needs, or whether other alternatives should be examined and considered. The Township has a long-standing committee that has extensively reviewed all of the possible options to provide additional wastewater treatment capacity and, in addition, the Township recently purchased vacant property proximate to Jackson Road. This parcel will provide the space should it become necessary for the Township to build its own treatment facility to accommodate future growth.

### Local roads are our responsibility

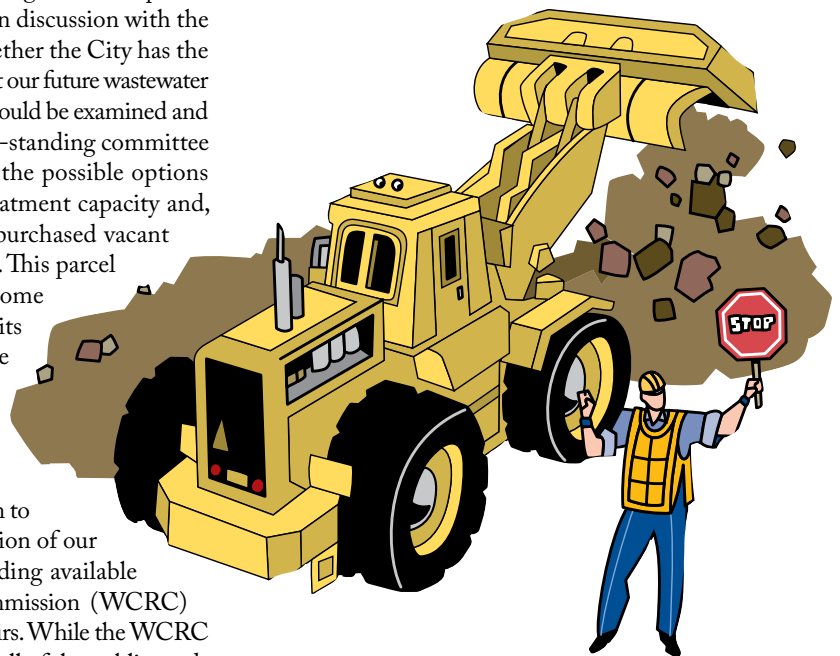
Another issue the Township has begun to struggle with is the steady deterioration of our Township roads and the lack of funding available to the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) with which to address the needed repairs. While the WCRC is responsible for the maintenance of all of the public roads

in the Township, it has long been evident that they lack the necessary funding to do so. The Township has appointed a Local Roads Committee staffed with citizen volunteers, and they have been involved in an ongoing effort to find possible solutions to prevent the continued decline of the public roads in the Township. Their findings can be read in the newsletter from the summer of 2009, which can be found here: [http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/index\\_html](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/index_html)

Realistically, it appears that the only viable solution will be one that comes from the Township itself, as no outside source able to deal with these particular problems appears to be on the horizon. Our state government has long buried its head in the sand with regard to our road system, reputedly the worst in the nation, so it seems unlikely that we can expect any remedy at the state government level. Either we find a solution ourselves or it won't happen.

### Time to prepare our Budget

While the Township continues to grapple with the issues that I have mentioned, the Township now needs to prepare its budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year which runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Given the current economic climate in the State of Michigan (and elsewhere), the potential declines in property tax revenues in the range of 5 to 8% for the coming fiscal year, combined with continued efforts by our state legislators to cut revenue sharing to local municipalities, Scio will need to proceed cautiously in developing its budgets for the next several years. Unfortunately, (actually, fortunately) local governments like Scio can't borrow money like the state government can (and does), nor can townships indulge in deficit spending. Thus, the Scio Board will focus on conservative fiscal planning in order to maintain the Township's finances in sound fiscal shape.



# 2010 Elections

## Election Dates for 2010

May 4 (if there is a school election), August 3, and November 2.

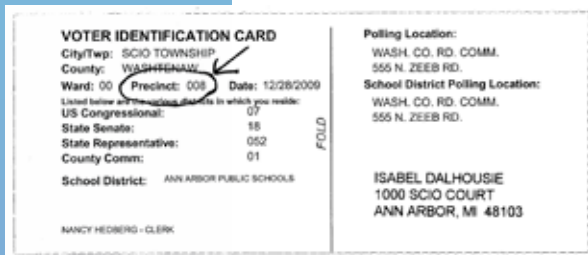
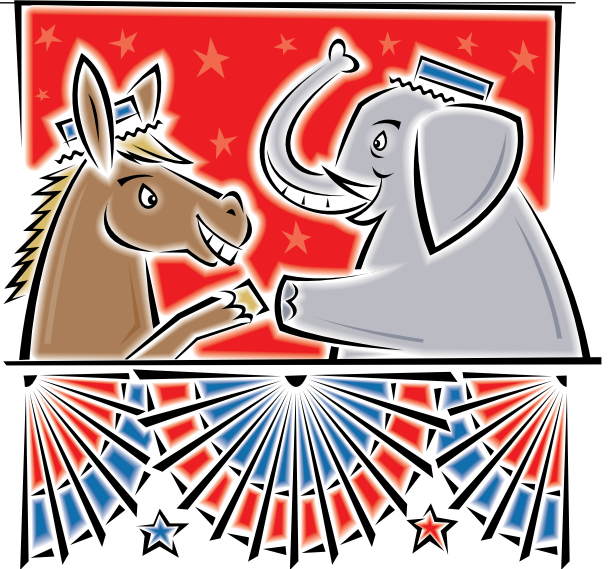
## School Board moves their election dates

The Ann Arbor Public School Board resolved at their December meeting to coordinate their school elections with the November general elections. If we must conduct an election this coming May, it would only be for the Dexter Public Schools as they have yet to change their policy.

## Precinct Polling returns

With a 2010 gubernatorial race underway, we are making plans to return all precincts to their permanent sites in August and November and will add a Counting Board. Counting Boards are set up to count all Absent Voter Ballots in one location. Do you remember where your polling place is? Check

Do you remember where your polling place is?



your Voter Identification Card for your precinct number:

- Precinct 1 – Dexter Senior Center
- Precinct 2 – Scio Township Hall
- Precinct 3 – Scio Township Hall
- Precinct 4 – Scio Community Church
- Precinct 5 – Scio Farms MHP Clubhouse
- Precinct 6 – Scio Township Fire Hall
- Precinct 7 – Washtenaw Intermediate School District
- Precinct 8 – Washtenaw County Road Commission
- Precinct 9 – Polo Fields Clubhouse

## Be sure to register

In order to participate in each of these elections, you must be registered to vote at your current residential address at least 30 days prior to the election. Registration cutoff date for the May election is April 5, 2010. The last day to register for the August Primary is July 6th, and the last day to register for the November General Election is October 4th.

## Did You Know?

We have ensured that polling places are fully accessible and that every voter is able to vote without difficulty. Each precinct is equipped with an AutoMARK machine that is available for use by any voter. The AutoMARK can present the ballot either visually via a touch screen or audibly through headphones. Controls allow the voter to adjust the font size on the screen and the speed at which the ballot is read. When completed, the AutoMARK will mark the ballot with the voter's choices and return it into a secrecy sleeve, which is then inserted into the tabulator for recording. Each polling place is set-up to ensure that every voter can vote with complete secrecy.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# Get Involved

Scio Township is seeking an interested resident who would like to serve on the Washtenaw County Consortium for Solid Waste Management (WCC-SWM). It involves monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at varying locations. Interested citizens should send a resume/ expression of interest to:

Spaulding Clark, *Township Supervisor*  
827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-1599

Or by email to:  
ESClark@twp.scio.mi.us

Scio Township is seeking an interested resident...



## future Plans

Non-Motorized Paths Study Group is taking shape in the Township

First of all, HAPPY NEW YEAR, and our wishes for continuing recovery from some very hard economic times.

### Ann Arbor Technical Services

In the last three months this was the only development project that came before the Planning Commission. The Commission recommended approval of several proposed improvements to the existing facilities of Ann Arbor Technical Services at 290 S. Wagner Road. The improvements include expansion of the building square footage by 6,144 s.f., reduction and realignment of parking spaces, landscaping, and construction of a bioswale along the south, west and north sides of the property. These changes are a welcome upgrade to the Wagner Road business corridor.

### Zoning Ordinance Amendments

By the time you receive this newsletter, I expect that changes to three sections of the Zoning Ordinance will be approved: additions to District Regulations, changes to the Tree and Woodland Ordinance, and creation of a new Wind Energy section. The next major revisions will focus on developing new site regulations for the Jackson Road corridor.



### Non-Motorized Paths Study Group (NPSG)

In the last newsletter I described a new initiative taking shape in the Township. I am happy to report that the NPSG has been formed. Our task will be threefold: to develop consensus on a non-motorized path project, to generate design drawings, and to devise a funding strategy for actual construction. It is expected that this task will take at least a year and will be broken into three phases. The first phase starts in January and goes through July. The members of the study group for this first phase are: Dea Armstrong, Allison Arscott, Anne Louise Baird, Allison Bishop, Chad Brintnall, Toni Henkemeyer, Alec Jerome, Gerry Kangas, Marty Mayo, David Read, Norm Roller and Jane Vogel. Doug Lewan will assist the group as the planning consultant. The first meeting is January 14th and every 2nd Thursday for the following six months. These are public meetings and the required agenda will be posted in advance. As always, the public is encouraged to attend, listen to our discussions and make comment as provided for in our agenda. A formal presentation of the study group's findings is scheduled for July.

## Scio Open Space Properties Protected

A branch of Honey Creek flows through the property and adds to the beauty and diversity of this gem.

The Scio Township Land Preservation Program was involved with closings on two conservation easements at the tail end of 2009 and, coincidentally, Honey Creek flows through both of them.

### Hathaway easement donated to the Legacy Land Conservancy

The Township contributed supporting funds and produced the baseline documentation report for a conservation easement donation made by Mary Hathaway to the Legacy Land Conservancy in Section 24 off Rose Drive east of Wagner Rd. Mrs. Hathaway and her late husband John bought the property many years ago to fend off its development. While relatively small at 4.7 acres, the entire property is covered by mature woods, which support a spectacular spring wildflower display. A branch of Honey Creek flows through the property and adds to the beauty and diversity of this gem. It is adjacent to the Botsford property on which the Township purchased a conservation easement earlier in 2009 to protect similar quality habitat. While the Hathaway property does not have

public access, the Township did negotiate a "right of first refusal" to purchase it if there is ever an offer for it to be sold outside the Hathaway family.

### Green property protected

Scio Township purchased a conservation easement on 38 acres owned by Dan and Norma Green in Section 16 off Marshall Rd. west of Zeeb Rd. The Greens have long wanted their land to be a Township park and have welcomed hundreds of school children and others to visit over the years. The Township negotiated a right of first refusal on the Green property as well so that Dan and Norma's dream of having it be a Township park may be realized. The property is bisected by a branch of Honey Creek and has an extensive trail network through mature woods and old fields that the Greens have planted in conifers and native deciduous trees. Public access to the Green property is permitted and encouraged but Dan and Norma request that visitors contact them first by calling (734) 663-4968. However, access is prohibited during all firearms seasons for White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The terms of the easement provide for a parking area but one has not yet been installed. For the time being, visitors should ask the Greens where best to park.



## Alternative Energy in Scio Township

With federal stimulus incentives in place through 2010, alternative energy has become an attractive way to lower energy costs and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the power companies.

Two new alternative energy systems have been installed recently by Scio residents. A wind energy conversion system (WECS), or wind turbine, has been installed on a farm on Liberty Road. A photovoltaic (PV) system - commonly referred to as "solar power" - has been installed at a private residence on Merlin Way.

### Financial incentives in place

With federal stimulus incentives in place through 2010, alternative energy has become an attractive way to lower energy costs and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the power companies. Currently, a tax credit of 30% of the cost of alternative energy systems is available on your federal income tax return. Please see your tax advisor for more information on how this credit may apply to you. In addition, Detroit Edison (DTE) has a program called Solar Currents, which provides financial incentives for installing PV systems. DTE is offering a rebate program, running at least through 2010, that will pay the customer \$2.40/installed watt. For example, if you install a system with five 205 watt PV panels, you would receive a rebate of \$2,460 (5 X 205 X \$2.40). The Solar Currents program also establishes the "net metering" rate of 11¢/kWh of power supplied to the grid. So, not only do you save on the power required from DTE, you are paid for the power your PV system generates.

### Certain zoning restrictions may apply

PV systems are currently allowed in all zoning districts. The Township is currently finalizing a WECS ordinance, and it is anticipated that WECS will be a permitted use in larger home sites in the Township. Please check with the zoning administrator if you have questions regarding the status of this ordinance.

### Contact us

If you have questions or would like to see an installed wind or PV system, contact Irwin Martin (WECS) at 734-665-1452 or David Read (PV) at 734-761-6637.



## Photo Contest Update

Since the passage of "Proposal J" in 2004, the Township of Scio has now protected eight properties within the Township. Using funds raised by the Township millage as well as funding from other governmental agencies when available, Scio has protected farmland, woodlands and open space. In an attempt to share the beauty of these properties with its residents, the Scio Land Preservation Commission (LPC) is having a Land Preservation Photo Contest. We invite residents to submit photographs, taken on any protected property listed below, which highlight the beauty of the property and the reason it was preserved.

### Images from all four seasons

We will be accepting digital photographs until June 1, 2010 - we want to provide the opportunity to get images in all four seasons. Please submit your digital photographs to [ScioPhotos@gmail.com](mailto:ScioPhotos@gmail.com). Files should be no larger than

1MB. They should be named and include the site photographed, but should not include the photographer's name. All entries will be coded and judges will not have access to names of the photographers. Judges will be two Scio residents who are also members of the Ann Arbor Camera Club.

### Photos can be used on website

Prizes will be awarded for first place (\$100), second place (\$50), third place (\$25) and Honorable Mention. Photographs will be judged on composition and ability to convey the natural beauty of our Township as seen on these protected parcels. All photographs selected may be used by the Township to document the beauty of these parcels. All entrants, therefore, give

permission to the Township of Scio to publish and display all or portions of submitted images. The only compensation to be awarded, other than that for contest winners, will be the accreditation for each of the photographs we publish. Please document permission from any recognizable person in a submitted photograph for use of their image.

### Check before you go

Some of these properties are visible only from public roads or onsite and only with prior approval. Please note below those properties for which permission must be obtained.

Photographs taken at any time on the following properties are eligible. As more properties are protected, additional notice will be provided:

**Fox Science Preserve.** Located on the east side of Peters Rd. one-half mile north of Miller Rd. Operated by Washtenaw County Parks. Open to the public during daylight hours. Parking area with informational kiosk.

**Davenport Farm.** Accessible for photographers but please call Mr. Davenport at 734-395-5595 before entering his property. Located on the east side of Parker Rd. and the north side of Marshall Rd., east to the bridge over Mill Creek.

**Scio Church Woods Preserve.** Located on the north side of Scio Church Rd. one-half mile west of Wagner Rd. Operated by Washtenaw County Parks. Open to the public during daylight hours. A small on-site parking lot is available.

**Botsford.** Located on the south side of Miller Rd. just west of the M-14 intersection; look for the sign for the Botsford Recreational Preserve. Open to the public during daylight hours. Parking along the utility right-of-way just past the entrance. The protected land is on the west side of the property; the buildings on the east side are not included.

**Gordon Hall** (Scio portion; requires permission from the Dexter Area Historical Society unless photographing from Island Lake Rd.). Located adjacent to the railroad grade west of the Village of Dexter. The historic mansion is on the Webster Township portion of the property; the Scio portion is to the south (left as one faces the mansion).

**Scherdt.** A beautiful farm surrounded by wooded lots. Mr. Scherdt has graciously agreed to allow photographers on his property. Photographers are welcome to come by any time. While there is no need to call first, it is recommended that the photographer stop by the house and inform the landowner when he/she arrives. The address is 6541 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. Please note that the easement area (the subject of the contest) is beyond the buildings and the first hedgerow.

**Hathaway.** Located in Section 24 off Rose Drive east of Wagner Rd. While the Hathaway property does not have public access, it is adjacent to the Botsford property and can be photographed from there.

**Green.** Located in Section 16 off Marshall Rd. west of Zeeb Rd. Public access to the Green property is permitted but Dan and Norma request that visitors contact them first by calling (734) 663-4968. However, access is prohibited during all firearms seasons for White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The terms of the easement provide for a parking area but one has not yet been installed. For the time being, visitors should ask the Greens where best to park.





# 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](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us)**

### Township Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Utility Department Hours

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Township Board of Trustees

Spaulding Clark, Supervisor . . . esclark@twp.scio.mi.us  
Nancy Hedberg, Clerk . . . . . nhedberg@twp.scio.mi.us  
Donna Palmer, Treasurer . . . . depalmer@twp.scio.mi.us  
Richard DeLong, Trustee  
Christine Green, Trustee  
Jack Knowles, Trustee  
David Read, Trustee  
Darrell A. Fecho, Township Manager (734) 665-2123

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](mailto:townshipboard@twp.scio.mi.us) will be forwarded to all members of the township board.

### Scio Township Department Heads

Carl Ferch, Fire Chief . . . . . (734) 665-6001  
Scott Martin – Utilities Director . . . . . (734) 665-2606  
James Merte – Assessing . . . . . (734) 665-2123

### Phone Numbers

Emergencies . . . . . 911  
Administrative Offices . . . . . (734) 665-2132  
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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David Read

Graphic Design

Julie Tanguay

Photographer

David Read

## County Information:

### Washtenaw County Road Commission

(734) 761-1500; wrcr@wcroads.org

### Washtenaw County Commissioners:

District 1 – Mark Ouimet

(734) 663-0927; ouimetm@ewashtenaw.org

District 2 – Ken Schwartz

(734) 686-4445; schwartzk@ewashtenaw.org

District 3 – Jessica Ping Mills

(734) 260-7844; pingmillsj@ewashtenaw.org

District 9 – Leah Gunn

(734) 663-7307; gunnl@ewashtenaw.org

District 10 – Conan Smith

(734) 662-0268; smithco@ewashtenaw.org

## State Information:

### State Representative

District 52 – Pam Byrnes

(517) 373-0828;

pambyrnes@house.mi.gov

### State Senator:

District 18 – Liz Brater

(517) 373-2406;

SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov

### Governor:

Jennifer M. Granholm

(517) 373-3400;

e-mail via [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)

## Federal Information:

### U.S. Representatives:

District 7 – Mark Schauer

(202) 225-6276;

e-mail via [www.schauer.house.gov/contact](http://www.schauer.house.gov/contact)

District 15 – John Dingell

(202) 225-4071;

e-mail via [www.house.gov/dingell](http://www.house.gov/dingell)

### U.S. Senators:

Debbie Stabenow

(202) 224-4822;

senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Carl Levin

(202) 224-6221;

e-mail via [www.levin.senate.gov](http://www.levin.senate.gov)

### President of the United States:

Barack H. Obama

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

## House Calls for your ailing computer

Get help from Andrew Dixon, your Microsoft Certified Professional and source of affordable onsite PC troubleshooting and repair. Call (734) 668-1788 for a free consultation or visit:

[www.personalcomputeradvisor.com](http://www.personalcomputeradvisor.com)

*Personal*  
**Computer Advisor**

Hands-on help with your home or office PC  
ASD Computing LLC, 5076 Hensley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103



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

## Remember to Register!

Registration cutoff date for the May election is April 5, 2010. Registration cutoff date for the August Primary is July 6, 2010. Registration cutoff date for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election is October 4, 2010.

Several hundred of you have taken advantage of this feature and I hope it is working well for you.

SCIO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER BY DAVID READ

## Electronic Delivery of the Newsletter

**W**e are now able to offer a paperless delivery system for this newsletter, saving the Township money and resources. Several hundred of you have taken advantage of this feature and I hope it is working well for you.

### Subscribing is easy

If you choose to have the newsletter electronically “delivered”, your household will no longer receive a paper copy, saving money and resources. To subscribe to this service, all you’ll need is your email address and the Mail Code from the address label on this quarter’s newsletter. The Mail Code is comprised of parts of your name and address. For instance, if your last name is Smith and you live at 1234 Main Street, your Mail Code would be SMIT123MAINST. With this information at hand, go to: [http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/scio\\_newsletter\\_subscribe.html](http://www.twp.scio.mi.us/newsletters/scio_newsletter_subscribe.html) and follow the instructions. Please note that the above address uses underscores ( \_ ) not spaces. If you have any problems or questions, let us know at [newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us](mailto:newsletter@twp.scio.mi.us). It is possible to subscribe multiple email addresses from the same household. Just be sure to use the correct Mail Code when subscribing.

