

Township Today

Important Phone Numbers

Main Township Phone Number	734.453.3840
Assessing Department	734.354.3267
Building Department	734.354.3210
Clerk's Office	734.354.3229
Community Development	734.354.3270
Fire Department Administration	734.354.3221
Human Resources	734.354.3202
Computer Services	734.354.3255
Park Office at Township Park (McClumpha)	734.679.6886
Reservations for Pavilion or Shelters	734.414.1459
Police Department Admin.	734.354.3232
Public Services Division	734.354.3270
Solid Waste Department	734.414.1452
Supervisor's Office	734.354.3201
Trash Complaints	734.414.1452
Treasurer's Office	734.354.3218
Water Billing	734.354.3270
Water and Sewer Department	734.354.3270
Water/Sewer Emergency (Dispatch)	734.354.3250
<i>(Weekdays after 4:30 pm, Holidays and Weekends)</i>	

Road Issues

Road maintenance in Plymouth Township is the responsibility of Wayne County. To report road issues, please contact Wayne County Roads at 1.888.ROADCREW.



Water Rates to Rise 2 percent; Sewer Charge to Disappear

To keep up with the nearly 8-percent wholesale water rate increase by the Great Lakes

Water Authority (GLWA), and to provide funding for current and planned improvements to our water service system, the Township's Board of Trustees has unanimously approved a modest 2 percent increase in our water bills for 2023-'24. The good news is that the annual WTUA capital improvement bond line-item on our water bills has been removed, saving the average household \$90 per year. This line-item fee was funding a WTUA capital improvement bond that has since expired. What is WTUA? Find out more on page 4.

Salem Sewer Plant Permit Review on Hold

Recent Court Rulings are a Setback for Salem

Salem Township's permit application for the Schostak Developer's "Salem Springs" sewer plant at M-14 and Napier is on hold. Salem and Schostak are currently in court in Washtenaw County over their plan to build a new sewer line through Superior Township; the Judge in that case recently issued an order that was a legal setback for Salem that might force them to look at other sewer options. Thank you to the hundreds of Township residents who contacted the State requesting denial of the permit; our elected officials in the Township and Lansing are monitoring the situation, especially the most recent Court decision. If approved, the Salem Sewer Plant would be directly across the street from Plymouth Township, at Napier and M-14, dumping 840,000 gallons of 'treated' sewage water into the Fellows Creek in Plymouth and Canton Townships.



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For more information visit: www.plymouthtwp.org

Community & Environmental News

Enjoy the 'Fall Colors' this October

The Township's Environmental Leadership Commission will host its third annual 'Fall Colors' event on Sunday, October 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Township Park's 4 Season Pavilion. This year's event will feature local student artwork, educational presentations from Friends of the Rouge, Friends of Miller Woods, Plymouth Pollinators, Graye's Greenhouse, Trailwood Garden Club, and Green for Life, as well as interactive crafts, activities, food and more!



2023 Fire Hydrant Winterization Program

Plymouth Township's DPW began its annual inspection and flushing of more than 2,000 fire hydrants on September 1st.

Township residents should be advised that as crews flush hydrants there may be some discoloration of the water. If you experience "rust colored" water, simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to allow the water to clear. Do not wash any light colored clothing until the water is running clear. The rust coloring is caused by a natural build up of minerals in the water system.

At all times throughout this program, the water system remains secure and the water is safe to drink. If you have any questions about the program please call the DPW at 734.354.3270 ext. 3.



MDOT I-275 Rebuild to Continue into Next Year *M-14 is Next on List of Repairs*

The Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) massive \$275 million repair of I-275 is expected to continue into 2025. Expect continued heavy traffic on Ann Arbor Road, Haggerty, Sheldon, and Beck as ramp closures and other hazards push motorists to find alternative routes. When the project is complete, the Township will work with MDOT to beautify the 'cloverleaf' area at Ann Arbor Road. MDOT also intends to rebuild three miles of I-96 and M-14 between Sheldon and Newburgh roads in Plymouth and Livonia starting in 2024 and ending in 2026 at a cost of \$130 million, so expect more traffic disruption in the future!

Shred Day with the City of Plymouth Saturday, September 30, 2023, 9 am to 12 pm

LOCATION: Plymouth Township Hall Parking Lot

The City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township will offer a shred day for residents of both communities on Saturday, September 30, from 9 am to 12 pm (or until trucks are filled) at the Plymouth Township Hall Parking Lot. This event will also include electronic (e-waste) recycling.

- » Paper to be shredded shall be limited to 5 file-sized boxes or paper bags each trip.
- » Residents can make multiple trips throughout the morning.
- » Visit the township website www.plymouthtwp.org, for a list of acceptable electronics and household items.

Participants must provide proof of City or Township residency.

Why Do We Have a Sidewalk Replacement Program?

Plymouth Township has a program that identifies and replaces sidewalk slabs that pose a risk to pedestrian safety. The Township is divided into 5 zones and each year a new zone is slated for the program. Our Township Engineers, Spaulding-DeDecker, electronically mark slabs for replacement and bill the homeowner for the work, saving you money by buying at bulk rates. The sidewalk replacement program is even more important today, as a recent decision by the Michigan Supreme Court overturned the 30-year "Open and Obvious" exception to sidewalk slip and falls, increasing liability risks for both the Township and Homeowner. Questions on the sidewalk program?

Email us at sidewalks@plymouthtwp.org.



Curbside Yard Waste Collection

It's that time of year again! Leaves will start to fall and soon residents will have multiple yard waste bags or containers at the curb for collection. Here are a couple of reminders to help make sure your yard waste gets picked up on your scheduled collection day:

- » Yard waste containers must have a capacity between 20 and 35 gallons, not weigh more than 50 pounds when filled, and be clearly marked yard waste.
- » 30 gallon paper yard waste bags can be used but make sure the filled bags do not exceed 50 pounds.
- » Plastic bags may NOT be used for yard waste.
- » Place yard waste containers on the opposite side of the driveway as your trash.
- » Brush and branches up to 4 inches in diameter must be cut to three (3) feet in length and tied in bundles with string or twine. No more than 50 pounds per bundle.
- » Plymouth Township's seasonal yard waste collection continues through the week of January 8, 2024.

Curbside Recycling Tips

Plymouth Township provides curbside recycling, which helps reduce landfill use and helps the environment. We need your help in making sure your recyclables are collected properly and ready for pick-up. The Solid Waste Department page on the Township website (www.plymouthtwp.org) provides a comprehensive list of acceptable items.

- » All recyclables must be placed inside the cart in order for them to be collected. Additional carts are available for a fee; please contact the Solid Waste Department at 734-414-1452 for information.
- » Place trash containers at the curb on one side of your driveway and place yard waste and the recycling cart on the opposite side of your driveway. Be aware of parked cars and overhead trees that could block access to the automated recycling trucks.



Tree and Brush Removal Guidelines

Don't forget to bundle your tree and brush waste with twine or cut it to fit into a yard waste receptacle or bag. GFL will not pick up branches that are unbundled, or that exceed 3 feet or logs and branches that are too heavy to lift. Please contact a private contractor to haul away these larger items.

For more information visit:
www.plymouthtwp.org



Sign up for Plymouth Township e-News!

Get all the latest news delivered right to your inbox! These short periodic digital newsletters will give you timely information on the latest Township news including community events, trash pick-up, public safety, Township meetings, hearings, notices, and more.

Visit www.plymouthtwp.org, and click the envelope icon in the upper right corner of the home page.



Charter Township of Plymouth
 9955 North Haggerty Road
 Plymouth, Michigan 48170-4673

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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 4** Labor Day *(Township Offices Closed)*
- 7** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 6pm
- 12 + 26** Board of Trustees Meetings, 7pm
- 14** Last Day to pay summer taxes without interest
- 20** Planning Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 25** Environment Leadership Commission, 7pm

OCTOBER

- 3** Board of Trustees Study Session, 7pm
- 5** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 6pm
- 9** Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 4pm
- 10 + 24** Board of Trustees Meetings, 7pm
- 18** Planning Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 23** Environment Leadership Commission, 7pm
- 26** Historical District Commission, 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 2** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 6pm
- 10** Veteran's Day Observed *(Township Offices Closed)*
- 14 + 28** Board of Trustees Meetings, 7pm
- 15** Planning Commission Meeting, 7pm
- 23** Thanksgiving Day *(Township Offices Closed)*
- 24** Friday after Thanksgiving *(Township Offices Closed)*
- 27** Environment Leadership Commission, 7pm

All meeting dates are subject to cancellation.

Contact your Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

Supervisor, Kurt Heise	734.354.3201	kheise@plymouthtwp.org
Clerk, Jerry Vorva	734.354.3224	jvorva@plymouthtwp.org
Treasurer, Bob Doroshewitz	734.354.3214	bdoroshewitz@plymouthtwp.org
Trustee, Jen Buckley	734.459.8473	jbuckley@plymouthtwp.org
Trustee, Chuck Curmi	734.476.3791	ccurmi@plymouthtwp.org
Trustee, Audrey Monaghan	734.414.1393	amonaghan@plymouthtwp.org
Trustee, John C. Stewart	734.459.8811	jstewart@plymouthtwp.org

Important Reminder Regarding Lawn Signs

Due to a decision by the United States Supreme Court, Plymouth Township urges you to place lawn signs on private property – not on street corners or the easement area between the street and sidewalk. This includes garage sale signs, political signs and service club signs.



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For more information visit: www.plymouthtwp.org

New State Election Laws Bring Changes to Clerk's Office

An Update from Township Clerk Jerry Vorva

In 2022, Michigan voters strongly supported a new Amendment to our State Constitution that created a series of new laws and rules changing the way we vote in local, state, and federal elections. I would like to give you a quick update on what we can expect.

- » Local governments are now required to conduct nine days of early voting for statewide and federal elections. This also allows for the pre-processing and early tabulation of absent voter (AV) ballots in communities with a population over 5,000 on any or all of the eight days prior to Election Day.
- » Pre-paid postage for AV applications and AV ballot return envelopes is now required.
- » Voters have up to three days after the election to cure any signature matching deficiencies on their ballot.
- » It is a five-year felony if the results of early voting are disclosed before the close of polls on Election Day.
- » There will be an AV ballot tracker program to track the status of AV ballots.
- » We are required to have one AV drop box and one additional drop box for every 15,000 registered voters which will be under video surveillance.
- » Voters who request to be placed on the Permanent Mail AV Ballot List will now receive an AV ballot for all future elections.
- » Communities can now expand their precinct sizes to up to 5,000 active voters. The previous limit was 2,999.

Election Laws Increase Need for Poll Workers

Michigan's new voting laws will greatly expand the need for poll workers at our regular voting precincts, and our 9-day 'early voting' precinct locations.

The Clerk's Office will need highly skilled workers with computer skills to chair the 9-day early voting polling sites. These sites will be open 8 hours a day. Just like with election day precincts, we will also need non-chair workers for these sites.

For election day we are always looking for workers who have the potential to become a chair/co-chair or who have prior experience as a chair/co-chair. We want to build a bench of potential chairs just in case one or both of our regular chairs/co-chairs cannot work an election.

If interested, you can reach out to us at elections@plymouthtwp.org.

New Election Laws to Change the Way We Vote

Recent changes to our State's election laws will begin with the February 27, 2024, Democratic Party Primary. Voters will have several different early voting options, including vote by-mail, traditional in-person voting on Election Day, and in-person voting at one or two designated sites 9 days before the Election Day.

During the early voting period, voters will be issued a ballot that they can insert directly into a tabulator at an early voting site to be determined by the Clerk. Voting site information will be provided to voters in the newsletter and by mail later.

Both early in-person voting, and absentee voting allow voters to cast a ballot prior to Election Day. However, there are key differences between the two methods of voting.



Clerk Jerry Vorva and Deputy Clerk Paula Jefferson

- » Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot like how they would do so at a traditional polling place on Election Day. Voters will be issued a ballot and can personally insert it into the tabulator at their early voting site.
- » Each early voting site will access the Qualified Voter File, a secure voter records database that sends and receives regular updates of a voter's ballot activity. Ballot information entered at any early voting site or at a local clerk's office is regularly uploaded to prevent the issuance of duplicate ballots.
- » The 9-day early voting period begins the second Saturday prior to Election Day and ends the Sunday before an election.

Ballots inserted in the tabulator are sealed in secure containers each night during the early voting period. After polls close on Election Day, all ballots submitted at an early voting site are totaled and reported, along with the vote totals from absentee and Election Day ballots.

Absentee voting allows voters to request a ballot by mail or in person at their local clerk's office. Voters can complete their absentee ballot at home or at their local clerk's office and submit it in an envelope by mail, in person, or by drop box. After an absentee ballot is received by the local clerk, the voter's absentee ballot is processed and tabulated by their local clerk.

WTUA: A “Dirty Job” Done Right for Plymouth Township

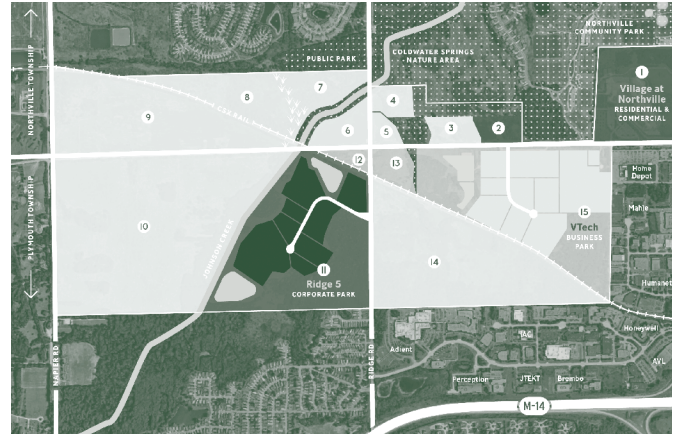
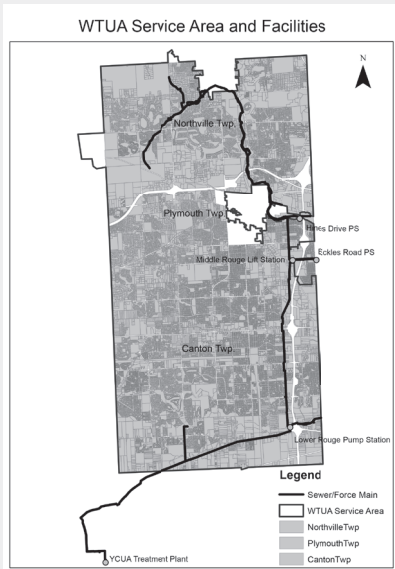
Did you know that Plymouth Township is part owner of a sewer system? The Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) was created in 1986 and is responsible for the collection of our wastewater from Plymouth, Canton, and Northville Townships. Each community has its own local sewers that flow into the WTUA Interceptor Sewer system for transportation to the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) wastewater treatment plant next to Willow Run Airport. None of our sewage flows go to Wayne County or Detroit. And yes, YCUA is pronounced ‘YUCK-ahh.’

The WTUA system is valued at roughly \$225 million, has an annual budget of \$10 million, and includes approximately 26 miles of large diameter sewers (15” to 60”), approximately 750 manholes, the Middle Rouge Lift Station, and the Lower Rouge Pump Station, and two smaller pump stations at Eckles Road and Hines Drive.

The Middle Rouge Lift Station receives the flows from all of Northville and Plymouth Townships and a portion of Canton Township and is used to lift wastewater to a higher elevation, allowing it to then flow by gravity to the Lower Rouge Pump Station. The Middle Rouge Lift Station has approximately eight million gallons of underground storage.

The Lower Rouge Pump Station delivers the flow from all three communities to the YCUA Treatment Plant via two Force Mains (30” and 36”), each over eight miles long. The Lower Rouge facility includes 11 million gallons of underground storage and three million gallons of partially underground storage.

WTUA is a separate governmental authority and is governed by a 3-member Board comprised of the Supervisors of the 3 member townships. The WTUA Board meets monthly at the WTUA offices on Joy Road and Haggerty in Canton.



MITC Authority Redevelops Former Prison Properties

\$12.5 million in State and Federal Funds Authorized for 5 Mile

The Michigan International Technology Center (MITC) is what’s known as a “Brownfield Redevelopment Authority” created in 2018 by Plymouth and Northville Townships and the State of Michigan. A brownfield redevelopment authority is authorized by State Law and allows for the capture of new taxes generated from development of a brownfield site to be reinvested at the site for things like JTEKT environmental cleanup and infrastructure improvements necessary for safety and economic redevelopment.

The MITC goes back to at least 2010, when Supervisors of the two townships looked for ways to develop the long-vacant Detroit House of Corrections (DeHoCo) Prison properties and the former Robert Scott Prison, both on Five Mile between Napier and Beck. The MITC comprises more than 800 acres of land that was dormant and not generating taxes, jobs, or economic development. Some of the parcels were also contaminated.

In 2014, Supervisor Heise, who was then State Rep, transferred the DeHoCo prison to the Michigan Land Bank, and sold the State’s Robert Scott Prison to Northville Township. He later used \$2 million in State funds to tear down the DeHoCo Prison in 2017.

This Summer, the State of Michigan authorized \$10 million for the rebuilding of Five Mile between Napier and Beck, which is owned and maintained by Wayne County. The MITC has also received \$2.5 million in Federal funds for improvements to Ridge Road including a new traffic signal at Ridge and Five. The Township wants to take this opportunity to thank State Reps Morgan and Koleszar, State Senator Bayer, and Wayne County CEO Warren Evans for their work on obtaining these funds.

To learn more, go to www.mitc-usa.org.