



Inside this issue:

Fire Department to host Open House	2
Youth Police Academy	3
Fraud/Identity Theft Prevention Tips	3
Household Hazardous Waste Day Oct. 19	4
Supervisor's Corner	5
United Way Campaign	5
Phoenix Mill Museum to honor women	6

Important Phone Numbers:

General Twp. Government Number: 453-3840

Police, Fire, EMS

Emergencies: 911

Police (non-emergency): 354-3249

Supervisor 354-3201

Clerk 354-3224

Treasurer 354-3214

Fire Department acquires golf cart ambulance

The Plymouth Community Fire Department unveiled a new specialty vehicle last week. The "golf cart ambulance" is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit, much like a full-sized ambulance. It

carries all of the essential equipment needed for those critical first minutes of a medical emergency. The cart is equipped with a heart monitor/defibrillator, backboard for transport, oxygen, and supplies for drug therapy and intubations.

The purchase of the vehicle was made possible by the fundraising efforts of Plymouth Township resident, James Peldo and Firefighter/Paramedic David Fox. Others involved in raising money for the project include Weldcraft, Plymouth Auto Body, Sign-a-Rama and Lairds. Total price for the project—\$12,000.

Mr. Peldo, a resident since 1994, got the idea for the project when he saw the Plymouth Community Fire Department using a similar vehicle, borrowed from another agency, for

Emerald ash borer is cause of ash decline

The cause of the ash decline in our area has been determined to be the emerald ash borer, an introduced species native to Asia. Many residents have inquired about the removal of dead ash trees in the County right-of-way within Plymouth Township. The Wayne County Department of Public Services Forestry Section conducted a survey and has marked trees that are 50% or more dead for removal. The designation for removal of ash trees is a vertical yellow line. Trees that are less than 50% dead may be able to

survive if treated properly.

The County's position is that trees that are of a 6-inch caliper or less are to be removed by the homeowner. Removal should begin in



Plymouth Community Fire Chief Larry Groth (center) credits Firefighter/Paramedic David Fox and fundraiser James Peldo with being the impetus for the Golf Cart

use at the Fall Festival a year ago. "I wondered why our Fire Department didn't have one of their own" said Peldo. He approached Fox and they set a plan in motion. Fire Chief Larry Groth is thankful for their efforts. "We are fortunate to have residents like James Peldo who are willing to invest in our Fire Department to ensure that we have the best equipment to serve the citizens", said Groth at the official debut. The vehicle will be used at many community events where access to a larger vehicle might be diffi-

October. A tree cutting crew will be followed, not necessarily on the same day, by a stump grinding crew. This crew will grind the stump below grade level.

To speak to someone in the Forestry office please call (734) 522-7371. For information regarding disposal of ash wood and possible treatment options, please contact the Solid Waste Department at 453-8131, ext. 33. You can also access information at these web sites:

MSU Extension Office, Dr. Roberts,
www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash

Michigan Department of Agriculture

REMINDER: The Plymouth Township Police Department has a crime tip hotline.

Call **414-7518** and follow the voice prompts to leave a recorded message.



In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2002 the Plymouth Community Fire Department will open the doors of all three Fire Stations to the public for visits and tours during the hours of 7:00 PM–9:00 PM each day. For further information, please contact 354-3221. Station locations are listed below:

Fire Station One

42350 Ann Arbor Road



Fire Station Two

41212 Wilcox

Fire Station Three

13600 Beck



Members of the Plymouth Community Fire Department participated in “Safety Town 2002” recently at Central Middle School. This program is held annually by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and teaches preschoolers about safety topics such as fire, traffic and water safety, and stranger danger. Pictured at left is Captain Jim Haar who is demonstrating how to crawl beneath a layer of smoke to escape a fire.

Fire Department offers smoke alarm safety tips

According to Fire Chief Larry Groth, the single most important thing a homeowner can do for fire safety is to install and maintain smoke alarms throughout the home. “In

addition to smoke alarms, each family should have a home fire escape plan and practice it periodically so that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire in the home.”

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that 94% of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm. But in three of every 10 reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work. Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries.

The NFPA recommends following these safety tips:

- ◆ While smoke alarms alert people to fires, families still need to develop and practice home fire escape plans so that they can get out quickly.
- ◆ Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home (including the basement) and outside each sleeping area. If you sleep with the door closed, NFPA recommends installing smoke alarms inside the room. In new homes, smoke alarms are required in all sleeping rooms, according to the National Fire Alarm Code.
- ◆ Because smoke rises, alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings. Wall-mounted alarms should be positioned 4-12 inches from the ceiling; ceiling-mounted alarms should be positioned 4 inches away from the nearest wall. On vaulted ceilings, be sure to mount the alarm at the highest point of the ceiling.

- ◆ Smoke alarms should not be installed near a window, door or forced-air register where drafts could interfere with their operation.
- ◆ NFPA recommends that people with hearing impairments install smoke alarms with louder alarm signals and/or strobe lights to alert them to a fire.
- ◆ Be sure that the smoke alarm you buy carries the label of an independent testing lab. For a list of manufacturers that distribute smoke alarms for the hearing impaired, please call NFPA’s Center for High-Risk Outreach at (617) 984-7826.
- ◆ Alarms that are hard-wired to the home’s electrical system should be installed by a qualified electrician.

Smoke alarm maintenance should include:

- ◆ Test smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarm’s “test button” or an approved smoke substitute, and clean the units in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.
- ◆ Install new batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year, for example, on the day you change your clocks or when the alarm chirps (warning you that the battery is dying).
- ◆ Replace all smoke alarm batteries immediately upon moving into a new home.
- ◆ Keep batteries in smoke alarms; do not borrow them for other purposes. Nuisance activations can be addressed by moving an



Youth Police Academy graduates its second class

The Plymouth Township Police Department held its second Youth Police Academy in July for 23 Plymouth-area middle school students. During the week-long program the students learned about topics such as criminal law and the judicial system, police patrol operations, crime scene and accident investigations, among others. The participants also observed a K-9 demonstration and took part in a firearm simulation exercise. The program wrapped up with written and physical testing, followed by a pizza party and graduation ceremony.



2002 Plymouth Township Police Youth Academy Class

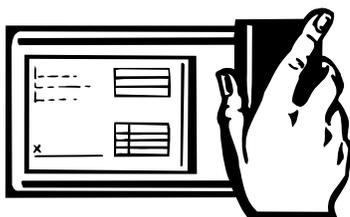
The class is shown here with Detective Bill Groff, program coordinator.

Protect yourself from identity theft

Have you ever heard of “shoulder surfing” and “dumpster diving”? No, these are not new Olympic sporting events, they are methods used by criminals to obtain your credit card number or other personal identifiers to commit

identity theft and fraud.

Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person’s personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.



Many people do not realize how easily criminals can obtain our personal data without having to break into our homes. In public places, for example, criminals may engage in “shoulder surfing”, watching you from a nearby location as you punch in your telephone calling card number or listening in on your conversation if you give your credit card number over the telephone to a

hotel or rental car company.

Even the area near your home or office may not be secure. Some criminals engage in “dumpster diving” going through your garbage cans or a communal dumpster or trash bin to obtain copies of your checks, credit card or bank statements, or other records that typically bear your name, address, and even your telephone numbers. In

recent years, the internet has become an appealing place for criminals to obtain identifying data such as passwords or even banking information. With enough identifying

information about an individual, a criminal can take over that individual’s identity to conduct a wide range of crimes. For example, false applications for loans and credit cards, fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts, or fraudulent use of telephone

calling cards.

These types of crimes have increased in recent years

according to Detective/Sgt. Steve Rapson who is in charge of the Investigations Division of the Plymouth Township Police Department. “These cases often overlap jurisdictions or involve the internet, making prosecution at the local level very difficult. That’s why it is so important for individuals to be aware and take the initial steps to

protect themselves.”

If you think you’ve become a victim of identity theft or fraud, act immediately to minimize the damage to your personal funds and financial accounts, as well as your reputation. Some actions that you should take right away:

1. Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the situation (1-877-438-4338, www.consumer.gov/idtheft).
2. Contact the Postal Inspection Service that serves this area (1-313-226-8184, www.usps.com/postalinspectors) if you suspect that an identity thief has submitted a change of address form with the Post Office to redirect your mail or has used the mail to commit fraud involving your identity.
3. Contact the Social Security Administration if you suspect that your social security number is being fraudulently used (1-800-269-0271, www.ssa.gov/oig).
4. Contact the Internal Revenue Service if you suspect the improper use of identification information in connection with tax violations (1-800-829-0433).
5. Contact the Fraud Units of the three principal credit reporting companies:
 - Equifax 1-800-525-6285, www.equifax.com
 - Experian 1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com

Solid Waste Notes:

Household Hazardous Waste Day added

A **Fall Household Hazardous Waste Day** has been scheduled for Plymouth Township and Plymouth City residents!

Date: October 19, 2002 (Saturday)
Time: 9:00 AM—2:00 PM
New Location: Compuware Sports Arena, 14900 Beck Road, North Entrance

Driver's License Required

The collection will take place in the Compuware Sports Arena's north parking lot. Compuware is located on Beck Road north of the M-14 expressway. It is hoped that utilization of this larger facility will get you and your neighbors in and out quickly. Your continued participation in this important event is essential to keeping

dangerous chemicals from entering our waterways and harming our environment and our health. A complete list of accept-



Summer is over. Please remember to dispose of your swimming pool chemicals properly. They will be accepted at the October 19 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For other options, please contact

Line dancing offers fun and fellowship to senior citizens

The seniors who attend line dancing classes at the Friendship Station already know how much fun it is. But instructor Bev Semeniuk is hoping to attract more seniors to learn the latest line dances or improve their dance technique. "A lot of people incorrectly assume that line dancing means country music, but we also dance to pop and rock music. We have a lot of fun and it's great exercise, too!"

Both morning and evening classes are held on Thursdays. A class for beginners goes from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon (all skill levels welcome!). Then from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM there is another beginner level class, followed by intermediate level from 8:00 PM—10:00 PM. The Friendship

Station is located at 42375 Schoolcraft (just east of Bradner, also just east of where Schoolcraft joins with Five Mile Road).

Compost season closes November 30

Autumn is coming and the leaves are beginning to fall from the trees. The Plymouth Fire Code does not allow for open burning in the Township. There are some

options available:

- ◆ Mulching your leaves directly into your lawn will help it to retain moisture and nutrients through the winter and lead to a healthier lawn next year.
- ◆ Add leaves to your home compost pile/bin. Don't have a bin or a pile but would like more information? Call the Solid Waste Department at 453-8131, ext. 33.
- ◆ Leaves will be collected following the yard waste/compost collection guidelines on your regular collection day: In a 35 gallon or less container marked "YARD WASTE" or "X" or "C", or in a yard waste bag available at retail stores.
- ◆ Branches and brush will be collected in bundles of 3-foot or less lengths and 6 inches or less diameters, tied with string or twine (no wire) and not weighing more than 50

The week ending **November 30, 2002** will be the last week of the 2002 curbside collection of yard waste. Regular collection will resume on Monday, April 9, 2003.

Christmas trees will be collected for compost during the week beginning January 6, 2003 and ending Friday, January 10, 2003. Trees can be placed curbside on your scheduled pickup



Dance Instructor Bev Semeniuk (far right) says there's room for more dancers in her beginner and intermediate line dancing classes for seniors

For a limited time, seniors who are interested can try the first class for free, no obligation! The regular fee for the class is \$3.00/morning class, \$5.00/evening class.

Supervisor's Corner:



Steve Mann

There has been a lot of talk about parks and recreation lately. When-

ever new projects are being considered, news

travels fast. Sometimes preliminary

information that is

circulated is not

always completely accurate. I think you deserve to know firsthand about our plans.

Parks and recreation has been a high priority for my administration, marked with many accomplishments during the past two years. Shortly after

taking office we saw the construction of Miller Family Park. We recently formed an agreement with the school district to improve school fields, allowing for enhanced recreation opportunities. The addition of a

Sprayscape and outdoor ice skating area has just been completed at our Township park. And soon, we hope to begin construction of a premier soccer park near Lake Pointe. These additions will help provide recreation opportunities that have been desired for years.

We are also looking into joint recreation possibilities with our neighboring communities. We have had discussions with the City of Plymouth about joining recreation forces. We have also talked with our neighbors to the north, Northville Township. We will continue to explore these options until we have a plan which we feel will offer the best benefit for our residents. Combining efforts can often be cost effective and successful – as we have seen with our Community Dispatch and Community Fire Department.

We cherish our parks and open space in Plymouth Township. This is recognized by

both our Township master plan, and Township recreation and open space plan. While we continue to expand and improve the recreational facilities in our Township, let me assure you, we would never think of giving our parks away, nor requiring you to call a neighboring community for permission to use them.

You have my word that we will continue to work to improve our community, watch over your tax dollars wisely, and protect the investment you have worked so hard to make in our community.

Thank you for giving me that opportunity,

ing



Here's something to look forward to next Summer! Pictured at left is the new Sprayscape play area at Plymouth Township Park. The project is near completion and will be in full operation when weather permits next year. The Sprayscape will include approximately 2600 square feet of space with 24 spray features, including: water cannons, horse charger, froggy-O, Daisy Mae, water O's and 12 ground sprays. The Sprayscape is designed to accommodate all ages and will be available at no cost!

Plymouth Community United Way needs your continued support

The Plymouth Community United Way has been a part of the Plymouth Community since 1943, and we are as strong as ever because of your support.

When many non-profit groups were having trouble collecting donations last year because of the needs of 9/11 funds and the state of the economy, you came through. Not only did you make certain the Plymouth Community United Way reached its \$1.1 million goal, you helped us surpass it by \$100,000.

It's your commitment to the 40 state and local agencies that makes us a major force in helping groups like the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, First Step, Growth Works,

Plymouth Opportunity House, and the Senior Citizens Club of Plymouth, just to name a few.

This year we've taken your lead, announcing a \$1.2 million goal for the Plymouth Community United Way campaign. During these times of

economic uncertainty, we know it will be a challenge. However, our corporate and individual supporters continue to be generous and meet those challenges, believing in the Plymouth Community United Way and the groups that support the needs of our community.



*Charter Township of
Plymouth
42350 Ann Arbor*

**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PLYMOUTH, MI
Permit No. 218**

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

**Attention
Postal
Customer
Plymouth,**



**Postal Carriers: Please deliver
to PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP**

Visit Plymouth Township government on
the Internet at www.plymouthtwp.org

Phoenix Mill Museum to honor labor history of women

The Plymouth Historical Museum is working closely with Wayne County Parks on a restoration project at the Phoenix Mill, located on the Middle Rouge River at Northville Road, in Plymouth Township. Wayne County Commissioner, Lyn Bankes has been working to establish the Phoenix Mill Women and Work Museum with the idea that it is an excellent location for a women's museum focusing on the labor history of women in our area. County Executive, Ed McNamara is also interested in the project and committed county funds to the restoration of the mill.

The Mill, which is currently used to house the salt and trucks for the winter road season, stands on the site of the extinct Village of Phoenix. Phoenix flourished only for a short time from its founding in 1837 up to 1880 and once even had its own post office. A mill was located at



Northville were "dry".

this site from 1840 –1905. The mill burned down in 1905. Phoenix was also the site of the Matthews Distillery, but the whiskey business was not successful as parts of both Plymouth and

Henry Ford bought the mill site in 1919 but had to rebuild the dam after it broke in 1921. The new mill, which opened in 1922, was the third Village Industry Mill to be opened by Ford. The Village Industry project was one of the most exciting industrial experiments of the 20th

century and the Rouge River Valley became the laboratory for this project.

The Phoenix plant produced electrical parts, voltage regulators and switches. This plant was

especially unique because

almost all of its employees were women. Women workers were considered to be especially adaptable to delicate assembly and welding work. The women who worked at the Phoenix Plant were