



Inside this issue:

Recreation a priority in Plymouth Township	2
Supervisor's Corner; Water and tax rates	3
Watershed wisdom: Summer lawn care	4
Voter registration and elections; passports	5
2004 Summer taxes; Tax deferment	6
Fire Department gets new turnout gear	7
Police promotions, awards	8

Important Phone Numbers:

General Twp. Government Number: 453-3840

Police, Fire, EMS Emergencies: 911
Police (non-emergency): 453-3869

Supervisor 354-3201
Clerk 354-3224
Treasurer 354-3214
Trustees:
Kay Arnold 455-2683
Charles Curmi 455-9658
Daniel Herriman 459-5396
Abe Munfakh 459-7547

Township receives prestigious financial award

Plymouth Township has been recognized for excellence in financial reporting for the publication of its annual comprehensive financial report. At the June 8 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Jeff Pardee presented an award on behalf of the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association (MMFOA), and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to the Township. He also presented a "Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting" to Treasurer Ron Edwards.

While the award was established well over 50 years ago, this is the first time the Township has qualified for and received the award. Only seven of Michigan's 1242 Townships received the award this year.

Plymouth Township officials have worked hard to develop a comprehensive annual financial statement. The format and con-



Supervisor Steve Mann, Clerk Marilyn Massengill, and Treasurer Ron Edwards accepted the "Excellence in Financial Reporting" award on behalf of Plymouth Township.

tent of the document goes well beyond the minimum reporting requirements to provide a snapshot of the entire community, not just the financial picture.

Annual picnic set for Sunday, July 4 at Township Park

Gather up the family and the picnic equipment for the **8th Annual Good Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic**. This event will be held on Sunday, July 4, 11:00 am—4:00 pm at Plymouth Township Park (Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha).

The picnic is open to the entire community. As in years past, the hot dogs, soda and ice cream will cost just a nickel.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets. There will be games for kids and adults, and hot-air balloon rides! Tell the kids to decorate their bikes for the bicycle decorating contest. Prizes will be awarded for different age groups, up to age 14. See you there!



The wheelbarrow race is just one of the many fun games played at the annual July 4 picnic.

If you'd like to volunteer, please call 354-3214.

Recreation a priority in Plymouth Township

With the opening of Lake Pointe Soccer Park in June, Township officials completed another step towards their goal of increasing recreational opportunities for the community. The soccer park, located on Haggerty Road at M-14 (north of Schoolcraft), features two soccer fields, a walking path, a shelter with restrooms, and a picnic and children's play areas.

The Board of Trustees has focused strongly on providing recreation opportunities within the Township for families to use, such as Miller Family Park on Ann Arbor Trail (open 2001), the Sprayscape (open 2003) and the outdoor ice skating rink (open 2004) at Plymouth Township Park.

The baseball fields at Plymouth Township Park were in need of a makeover last year when the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of new outfield fencing and foul poles. The improvements continue in 2004 with the replacement of the backstop and safety fencing. The wire fabric and poles are vinyl coated, in a ballpark green color.



Lake Pointe Soccer Park Grand Opening June 8, 2004

Sprayscape hours of operation

The very popular Sprayscape water feature at Plymouth Township Park is now open for the season! The daily hours are 8:00 am until one hour before the park closes. The park hours for the summer months are as follows:

June	8:00 am—9:30 pm
July	8:00 am—9:30 pm
August	8:00 am—9:00 pm
September	8:00 am—8:00 pm

The Sprayscape is scheduled to close on September 30, 2004, depending on the weather.



The SprayScape is now open!

Township encourages fitness and mobility by extending sidewalks

Seeking to connect subdivisions throughout the Township, the Board of Trustees has approved funding for the continuation of the multi-year sidewalk extension program. This project will provide for sidewalks to be installed along Powell Road, from Ridgewood Hills east to Beck Road; along Beck Road between Powell Road and Ann Arbor Trail; along Riverside Drive from Ann Arbor Trail to Edward Hines Parkway; along Schoolcraft



Road from Robinwood east to the Lake Pointe subdivision; and along Ann Arbor Road from the Ridgewood subdivision to Ann Arbor Trail. This \$236,000 worth of sidewalk improvements will provide pedestrian and bike traffic with paths leading to the Township Park, the City's downtown infrastructure, and other Township areas. Construction of the sidewalks has already begun, and is expected to be completed in 2004.



Steve Mann

Supervisor's Corner:

We are off to another great year in Plymouth Township – one of the Hottest Towns in America!

What a busy month June has been. We made great progress this month toward achieving many of our long-term goals.

Earlier this month, we opened our Lake Pointe Soccer Park with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. This 13.5-acre park is the home of two premier soccer fields. In addition, there is a walking path, pavilion, and play set for visitors to enjoy.

The Township was also recognized this month by the Governmental Finance Officer's Association (GFOA). The GFOA presented an award to the Township for "Excellence in Financial Reporting." This prestigious award recognizes the format and detail of the Township's financial statements.

This is the first time the Township has qualified for or received this award, which has been around for more than 50 years.

Perhaps our biggest accomplishment this month was hiring an architect to design our new Police, Fire and Town Hall complex. We hired the Ann Arbor Firm A3C who has already begun working with my administration to prepare designs for the new facility.

Lastly, we have some good news on our water rates. While I would rather have enjoyed sunny weather over the heavy rains we had these past two months, there is a small benefit. The rains have greened our lawns and landscaping, hopefully cutting down on our water use and in turn, our water bill. I think it is important to realize that Plymouth Township has one of the lowest water/sewer rates around. In addition, our water/sewer rates are going to remain steady this

year...no increase! Combine that with our 2.3% decrease from last year and you can see that we will be enjoying rates that are lower than what we paid in 2002!

You probably want to know, "Well, what about our taxes?" Good news there, too. Plymouth Township has the lowest overall tax rate in Wayne County! I think we are fortunate to have two of the highest income tracts in the County, be recognized as one of the Hottest Towns in America, and have the lowest overall tax rate in Wayne County. I know there is no other place that I would rather live!

I hope you enjoy the summer,

Township seeks candidates for Boards and Commissions

Interested in serving on a Board or Commission? Openings occur periodically and are filled through appointment by the Supervisor with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Township officials are seeking to develop a pool of candidates to pull from when vacancies come up. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest/resume to Supervisor Steve Mann, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. More information is available on the Plymouth Township website, www.plymouthtpw.org/government/boardsandcommissions.htm.

Water and tax rates

Water and Sewer Rate

Community	Cost per 1000 Gallons
City of Livonia	\$ 4.52
Plymouth Township	\$ 4.86
Canton Township	\$ 5.41
Northville Township	\$ 6.51
City of Northville	\$ 8.10
City of Plymouth	\$ 8.94

Overall Tax Rate

Community	2003 Tax Rates
Plymouth Township	26.5080
Northville Township	29.4111
Canton Township	31.8683 (*)
City of Livonia	33.5000 (*)
City of Plymouth	38.7423
City of Northville	40.0806

(*)Includes Solid Waste Pickup

Watershed Wisdom: summer lawn care



In our quest for perfect turf, a lot of us use fertilizers to keep our lawns green. Excessive fertilizer application will result in the fertilizer entering the Rouge River system, negatively impacting the water quality and costing each of us money to bring the river to compliance with the clean water act. Try these river friendly tips this season and help be a part of the pollution solution in the Rouge River Watershed and reduce our cost.

- Limit your fertilizer use to the holiday approach; Memorial Day and Labor Day only.
- Choose a low-phosphorus, slow-release fertilizer. Phosphorus is a concern for surface water quality because it can promote excess plant growth which robs other organisms of oxygen. Slow-release fertilizers discharge nitrogen over an extended period of time and have the following benefits:
 - low burn potential
 - less frequent applications
 - more uniform response

- If you get fertilizer on your sidewalks or driveways, remove it quickly so that it does not get washed into the storm drain.
- Keep your grass cut to a length of 3" or higher. Taller grass encourages deep root growth and shades out low-growing weeds.
- Tall grass grows more slowly and needs less water and fertilizer.
- Practice grass recycling—let the grass cuttings fall back into the lawn. The clippings contain 85% water, and decompose quickly which releases valuable nutrients into the soil that can contribute up to 25% of the lawn's fertilizer needs for the season.

For more information and a list of river friendly fertilizers and stores that sell them, visit the Plymouth Township web site at www.plymouthtpw.org.



West Nile Virus Prevention Strategies

- Remove any standing, stagnant water, the breeding ground for mosquitoes, from around your home. Turn over buckets, toys, etc. that can fill with water. Clean your birdbaths and gutters frequently.
- Reduce your outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity, April to October, from dusk to dawn.
- If you are outside during peak mosquito time, wear long-sleeve shirts, pants and socks and spray clothing and exposed skin with an insect repellent that contains DEET (N, N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluidine). Remember that it should be used only according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Provide screening (16-18 mesh) on all outside openings (doors, windows, etc.).

Check meter readings



It is that time of year again to check the reading on your water meter to make sure that it is accurate. The Water Department requests that residents check the readings on both the inside meter and outside register. If you have the new "Pro-Read" system with an outside **touch pad** (looks like a rubber wall plate with a nub) which sends an electronic reading, *this message will not apply to you*. If you have a meter with an outside register that has a **numerical remote** (looks like a small oblong box with numbers that tumble over), make sure that your inside and outside readings agree. The inside reading is the correct one and you are responsible for water registered on the inside meter. If the readings do not agree, contact the Water Billing Department at 453-8131, ext. 26. The new system can be installed free of charge with an appointment for a one-hour time block.

Check for water leaks



With the arrival of Spring, you may be thinking about home improvements and maintenance. This is a good time to check for leaks. Your water meter is the best detective for finding sizable leaks in your home. Before you check, make sure no water is being used anywhere in the house (flushing toilets, washing hands, showers, washers, and sprinklers, etc.). The meter located inside your home has a red triangle on the dial face. This red triangle should not be moving, nor should the meter be registering gallon digits. If the red triangle is moving, you may have a leak. The faster it spins, the more the water is going somewhere. Start checking hose connections, faucets, and toilets. A slow drip can add up to 15-20 gallons a day. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Put a bit of food coloring in each toilet tank. Without flushing, wait 15 minutes or so to see if the color shows up in the toilet bowl. For further information, call 453-8131, ext. 26.

A message from the Township Clerk: *Voter Registration and Elections*

You may register to vote at any Secretary of State Office. If you prefer, you may register in the Clerk's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Building #3. We will be happy to assist you. A Voter I.D. Card will be mailed to you upon registration.

2004 election dates are August 3 (Primary) and November 2 (General).

The Clerk's Office automatically sends, prior to every election, "Applications for Absent Voters Ballot" to all registered voters who have attained the age of 60 years, and to those individuals who are on record as disabled. The application must be completed, signed and returned to the Clerk's Office before the absentee ballot can be mailed.

All registered voters may vote an absentee ballot if they: expect to be absent from the community on election day; are physically unable to attend the polls; cannot

attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion; has been appointed as an election inspector; has been confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. To receive an absentee ballot an "Application for an Absent Voters Ballot" must be completed and submitted to the Clerk's Office. An "Application for an Absent Voters Ballot" may be picked up at the Clerk's Office or you may call and one will be mailed to you. Contact the Clerk's Office (354-3224) for further information.

The Clerk's Office is open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the Saturday prior to an election for issuance of absent voter ballots.

We are always seeking election inspectors. If you are interested, contact the Clerk's Office for an application. The current pay for an election inspector is \$140.00 for the day, an additional \$25.00 for acting as chairman, \$15.00 for co-chair and \$20.00 for attending the required instructional meeting.

Clerk's Office now provides Passport application service

You may apply for a Passport at the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Building #3, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Applications will not be accepted the day prior, the day of, or the day following a scheduled Federal, State, County or Local Election.



Documentation required:

Completed application: (Do not sign the application until the passport agent instructs you to do so).

Proof of U. S. Citizenship: Previous U. S. Passport; Certified U. S. Birth Certificate, Certificate of Naturalization; Certificate of Citizenship.

Proof of Identity: Current and valid: Driver's License, State ID Card or Military ID.

Two Passport Photos: Can be obtained at AAA, CVS stores, Kinko's, and Walgreen's.

Payment: Two separate payments are required at time of application.

Under 16—\$40.00 basic fee, \$30.00 processing fee:
Total fee \$70.00.

16 and over—\$55.00 basic fee, \$30.00 processing fee:
Total fee \$85.00.

Processing Time:

Customers making routine applications should receive their passports within six weeks. All inquiries on processing must be made directly to the National Passport Information Center at (900) 225-5674.

If you are traveling within 14 days and require a passport, you will need to visit the Chicago Passport Agency in person. To schedule an appointment call (312) 341-6020.

Expedited service assures receipt of a passport within about three weeks for an additional fee. For faster postal service of an expedited application, the customer may provide two overnight "Express Mail" envelopes from the post office with correct postage.

Incomplete submissions will delay passport issuance.

Validity

Passports issued to a person under age 16 will be valid for five years. Passports issued to a person 16 years of age and over will be valid for 10 years.

For further information, contact the Clerk's Office at (734) 354-3228 or log on to the Plymouth Township website, <http://www.plymouthtp.org/services/clerk/passportflyer.pdf>

Information about your 2004 Summer tax statement

Summer taxes are due July 1, 2004 and payable through September 14, 2004 without penalty. If you have a name or address change, please write in changes on the front of the payment copy.

The State Legislature reduced the State Education Tax by 1.0 mill for 2003. The millage has been reinstated to the original 6 mill levy. The increase of 1.0 mill is offset by a reduction from the Plymouth Canton School District in debt millage from 3.15 mills to 2.70 mills.

There are many convenient ways to pay your taxes. By mail, using the drop boxes located in the parking lot and entry way of Township Hall, at a Standard Federal Bank branch or by coming into the Treasurer's office during Township business hours. If you would like a paid receipt, please include or bring with you the complete tax statement. If not, your cancelled check will be your receipt. Please write your Tax I.D. number on your check.

Anyone with questions or needing assistance can call the Treasurer's office at 354-3218.

Summer tax deferment

You may be eligible for deferment of your 2004 summer tax bill. Your summer tax payment can be deferred until February 14, 2005, if your total household income for 2003 was less than \$25,000, and you meet one of the following: Senior citizen (age 62 by December 1, 2004), Paraplegic, Blind Person, Totally and Permanently Disabled, Eligible Military, Veteran or Widow.

If you are eligible, please contact the Treasurer's Office for an Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes. This form must be signed and returned to the Treasurer's Office no later than September 14, 2004.

To receive an application by mail or if you have questions regarding Summer Tax Deferments, please contact Irene Whitmore at 354-3215.

Have you recently re-financed your home?

Due to the decline in mortgage interest rates over the past year, many Township homeowners have refinanced their homes. Many mortgage companies have not provided the Township with the up to date information. If your tax bill does not reflect your current mortgage company, please contact them and ask them to provide the Township with the correct information. It is the mortgage company's responsibility to see that your taxes are paid timely.

Support the Plymouth Community United Way

The Plymouth Community United Way 2004 Campaign will begin soon. This year's theme is **"Everybody Matters."** Since 1944 the PCUW has been providing for the human service needs of the community. Senior citizens, the disabled, children, families, and others in need of assistance benefit from your generous donation.

We've worked hard this last year, and with your support, we have made a difference to those in need in our community. We have disbursed over \$1 Million in allocations, grants, and designations to agencies to help people in need.

Your United Way continues to support those charities that you have indicated are most important. The agencies we support are here, in your community. Your donation, whether by check, a monthly donation, or a pledge of future planned giving will help us make a positive impact in the lives of people in our community. You can also go

on the internet at www.plymouthunitedway.org and make a secure on-line pledge.

Checks should be payable to:

Plymouth Community United Way
P.O. Box 6356
Plymouth, MI 48170

If you support the United Way through your place of work, please consider designating your donation to the Plymouth Community United Way. By doing so, your dollars return to help people in our home town.

Remember **"Everybody Matters."**...those in need and, especially, those who care.

Plymouth Community United Way



Fire Department gets new gear after grant award from FEMA

Plymouth Community Firefighters were recently outfitted with new protective fire equipment thanks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) "Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program". The purpose of the grant is "to protect the health and safety of the public and fire-fighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards." Assistant Chief Mark S. Wendel applied for the grant and received notification last summer that the Department would be awarded \$74,000. The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees approved the expenditure of \$7,400 in matching funds (ten percent) and to accept the remaining \$66,600 from FEMA.

All new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was purchased for the 29 Firefighters on the Department. The new equipment includes turnout gear (protective coat and pants), helmet, gloves, hoods, bunker boots, and suspenders. According to Assistant Chief Wendel, "We really needed to replace our old/obsolete equipment, but it's a big expense and we are really fortunate that this funding was available to us."

Grant funds also provide for the purchase of an industrial washing machine, called a "washer/extractor". This new equipment has been installed at Fire Station One and will be used to clean the firefighters' turnout gear. Firefighter Bill Conroy, who coordinated the purchase process, notes that, "This appliance includes internal electric heaters to heat the wash water to 160° or higher for the decontamination of blood borne pathogens and body fluids." Wendel

Police check liquor license compliance

Plymouth Township Police recently conducted an undercover liquor license compliance check at several local businesses. Police were hoping that no actual sales would take place, however, one establishment was issued a citation for "sale of alcohol to a minor". All other clerks refused to sell the alcohol when the customer could not produce proper identification.

Officer Jamie Senkbeil, who coordinated the checks, said, "It is the Police Department's recommendation that store clerks check the identification of all individuals that appear under the age of thirty." The law states that it is unlawful to sell or furnish alcoholic beverages to a person who is less than twenty-one years old. If a violation is issued, a follow-up investigation is conducted by the Liquor Control Commission.

It is important for the residents to know that, after several enforcement stings throughout the year of 2002, two violations were issued for "sale of alcohol to a



Firefighters took a moment to pose for a photograph in their new gear: FF Terence Harned, Lt. Jim Valensky, FF Chris Mack, FF Don Hahn, FF Patrick Conely, and Captain Randy Maycock.

adds, "it cleans to meet MIOSHA standards for hazardous contact with carcinogens present at all fire scenes." The PCFD serves Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth, an 18 square mile area. Residential population is approximately 37,000, with a daytime population of about 80,000.

minor". Alcohol enforcement stings in the year 2003 produced no violations. Even with one violation issued this year, the majority of the businesses are complying in accordance with the law the majority of the time, helping to make this community a safe place in which to live and work.

The Police also want to ensure that tobacco compliance checks are conducted in our community. Under the supervision of Police Officers, undercover, underage customers visit approximately 20 businesses throughout the year. In the year 2002, several violations were issued to businesses for "Sale of Tobacco to a Minor". However, no violations were issued in the year 2003. The act states that, "A person shall not sell, give, or furnish any cigarette, cigar, chewing tobacco, tobacco snuff, or tobacco in any form to a person under eighteen years of age." A person who violates this section is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00 for each offense.

Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 PM, unless otherwise shown.

Charter Township of
Plymouth
42350 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-
4394

PRSR STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLYMOUTH, MI
Permit No. 218

July:

Thursday, July 8: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)
Monday, July 12: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)
Tuesday, July 13: Board of Trustees
Wednesday, July 21: Planning Commission

August:

Thursday, August 5: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)
Monday, August 9: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)
Tuesday, August 10: Board of Trustees
Wednesday, August 18: Planning Commission

September:

Thursday, September 2: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)
Monday, September 13: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)
Tuesday, September 14: Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 15: Planning Commission
Tuesday, September 28: Board of Trustees

**Attention Postal Customer
Plymouth, MI 48170**



**Postal Carriers: Please deliver
to PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP
RESIDENCES ONLY.**

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

Tax bills will be mailed on July 1

Police Department announces promotions, issues awards

At their annual awards ceremony in June, Plymouth Township Police honored their own for service to the community. Awards in categories such as, Letters of Commendation, Certificate of Merit, Departmental Unit Commendation, Department Citation, and Safe Driving Award, were presented to Police Officers and Police Service Aides, in recognition of their exemplary work during the past year.

Two veteran officers, who had been officially promoted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees previously, were also recognized for their achievements. Bob Antal, who joined the force in 1985, was promoted to Lieutenant. Eric Anderson-Smith, with the department since 1987, was

promoted to Sergeant. Both men had their families accompany them to the ceremony.

Officer Scott Linton was recognized as 2003 Officer of the Year. Officer Linton has also been selected to receive the Distinguished Service Medal by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police for his efforts in the pursuit and capture of two suspects who had just shot six people, four fatally, during a robbery in Westland last September. According to MACP guidelines, the medal is awarded for "exceptionally meritorious conduct involving exemplary courage, great risk and danger to the officer's personal safety."

Youth Police Academy looking for applicants

The Fourth Annual Youth Police Academy will take place this summer, July 12 through July 16. This one-week academy is for middle school students between the ages of 11 and 15 years who have an interest in the field of law enforcement. The participants will learn about topics such as criminal law and the judicial system, police patrol operations, crime scene and accident investigations, among others. For more information, please contact Detective Bill Groff at 354-3245.