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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
Ron Griffith 455-1083
Abe Munfakh 459-7547

Johnson Controls cancels move to Salem Township

Plymouth Township officials are working closely with Johnson Controls (JCI) executives in the hopes that the company will remain in Plymouth Township after all. In early 2001, after JCI announced plans to expand their Automotive Group operation, representatives of the Township and JCI met with then-Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer to negotiate a purchase of the property which formerly housed the Detroit House of Corrections. When that deal fell through, JCI announced plans to build a technical center in nearby Salem Township, to the disappointment of Plymouth Township officials.

Then in January of this year, JCI announced the cancellation of the new facility project in Salem, citing timing restraints and economic reasons. Plymouth Township officials were very pleased to learn that the company has chosen instead to look at expanding the

operation near their existing facilities on Halyard in the Metro West Industrial Park. Upon hearing the news, the Township immediately went to work to try to retain JCI within the Township. The company recently acquired 100 acres of additional property and construction could begin as early as next year. The Township is currently working with JCI on plans to develop the property for this \$140 million project. JCI is currently Plymouth Township's largest tax payer.

JCI is a global market leader in automotive systems and facility management and control. In the automotive market, it is a major supplier of integrated seating and interior systems, and batteries. For non-residential facilities, JCI provides control systems and services, including comfort, energy and security management. JCI was founded in 1885 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Western Wayne Correctional Facility to close



Plymouth Township officials were pleased to learn that the State of Michigan plans to close the Western Wayne Correctional Facility on Five Mile

Road in the Township. Governor Jennifer Granholm made the announcement as part of her 2004-05 budget plan. The closure is expected to save the state \$22.7 million. Western Wayne currently houses over 800 female prisoners who will likely be transferred to the Huron Valley facility in Ypsilanti by October. Reasons cited for the closure include current economic conditions in the State,

as well as environmental concerns. This welcome news is a complete turn of events from just last year when discussions included the possibility of a 400 bed expansion at the site.

The Township looks forward to redevelopment of the 127-acre prison site. The site borders the Township's extensive Research and Development corridor and will be a welcome addition to the tax roll.

The location is adjacent to a 100 acre parcel recently sold by the City of Detroit to the DeMattia Group. Johnson Controls is pursuing plans to expand their Automotive Group Headquarters on that property (see related story above).

Identity Theft—what to do if you become a victim

Clip and save for reference

Ask Officer Jamie Senkbeil what the hottest topic in crime prevention is and she will answer, "Identity Theft!" Senkbeil, the Community Resource Officer for the Plymouth Township Police Department, says that victims of identity theft are often confused about what to do after discovering the crime. "There are several things that victims need to do, and they need to do them quickly" says Senkbeil.

The Michigan Attorney General's Office advises ID theft victims to immediately:

1. Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus to report the theft (see telephone numbers at the end of this article). Ask for a "fraud alert" to be placed on your file and request that no new credit be granted without your express, personal approval. Ask how long your account will be flagged. Record the expiration date of the fraud alert, and call back as this date approaches if you wish the alert to remain on your file.
2. For any accounts that have been fraudulently accessed or opened, contact the security or fraud departments of your credit card issuer, bank, utility company, etc. Close these accounts. Ask for your account to be password protected to prevent further unauthorized activity, and use unique passwords (not your mother's maiden name or social security number) on any new accounts you open.
3. File a report with local police or the police where the identity theft took place. Record the report number and keep a copy of the report, in case the bank, the credit card company, or others need proof of the crime later.
4. Call the FTC's ID Theft Clearinghouse toll-free at 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338) to report the theft. Counselors will take your complaint and advise you on how to deal with the credit-related problems that could result from ID theft. Complaints are entered on the nation's only central identity theft database. The database and related identity theft information is accessible to law enforcement around the nation to help them spot patterns and pursue criminals.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), loss to the average victim of identity theft is \$500,



and the average victim spent 30 hours trying to resolve their identity theft problem.

The FTC's booklet **ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name** (available at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>) is suggested reading for all consumers and should be reviewed by victims of identity theft. This 37-page booklet is a comprehensive national guide and contains a lot of important information. You can view the entire document on-line or order it free from the web-site.

The Michigan Attorney General's Office also has a list of steps you can take to reduce your risk of ID theft. Contact the office for more information:

Consumer Protection Division
P. O. Box 30213
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1140
Fax: 517-241-3771
Toll free: 877-765-8388
www.michigan.gov/ag

Additional information is available at the FTC's web site:

ID Theft Home Page: www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Credit Bureaus:

Equifax:	1-800-525-6285
Experian:	1-888-397-3742
Trans Union:	1-800-680-7289

The Plymouth Township website has crime prevention tips on several topics, including identity theft, at www.plymouthtp.org (click on Services, Police Department, Community Resource Services). Officer Senkbeil also has a stock of printed materials available. She can be reached at 354-3243.

New for 2004—ice skating and soccer!

There's even more winter fun to be had at Plymouth Township Park this year! A new ice skating rink has been created, right next to the Sprayscape, near the entrance to the park. The rink was open for a trial period for several weeks this winter and will be ready for skaters when cold weather returns again at the end of the year.

The other main cold-weather attraction to Plymouth Township Park is the sled hill which has been getting lots of use this winter. The park is located on Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha (between Beck and Sheldon Roads). Spring-like temperatures this month may signify the closure of the sled hill for this season! Call the park hotline at 453-3567.

Speaking of spring, as soon as weather permits, the Lake Pointe Soccer Park will open. Township officials plan to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on a date yet to be announced, most likely in June. The soccer park is located on Haggerty Road, just north of Schoolcraft and the M-14 Expressway. League play will probably begin in late summer.

Some of the many features of the park include one large and one smaller soccer fields, surrounded by a walking path. There are restrooms and a shelter, which is available for rental. A picnic and children's play area are also on site to make it a family-friendly place. For further information on the park, shelter reservations and use of the soccer fields, contact Susan Vignoe at 453-8131, ext. 33.



An ice skating rink is one of the new attractions to Plymouth Township Park this year.



Lake Pointe Soccer Park offers two soccer fields for league play, a picnic and children's play areas, restrooms, and a shelter available for rental.

New Police/Fire/Township Hall Update: Committee to review bids for architect

The Township is prepared to move forward now in the pursuit of a new facility to house Police, Fire and Township services. On November 6, 2003, Township voters approved a bond proposal allowing the Township to issue \$6M in municipal bonds. The bond proceeds, combined with an additional \$6M from current assets will allow the Township to build the new complex without any tax increase. Township officials are enthusiastic about the progress being made on this long overdue project.

Supervisor Steve Mann has formed an Advisory Committee to get the next stage of the plan going. The Township Hall Building Committee, chaired by Chief Building Official Mark Lewis, includes a cross section of active community residents and elected officials who will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The Committee also includes residents Harry Jachym, Steve O'Connor, and Bob Zaetta, along with Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill, and Treasurer Ron Edwards. The Committee met during January and February to

discuss details of the Request For Proposals (RFP) for architectural services. The Committee set a deadline of March 5, 2004 for proposals to be submitted to the Clerk's Office. They will now review the proposals and submit their recommendation for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

The new home for the Township offices will be located on Haggerty near Ann Arbor Road on a 9.5-acre parcel. The Township closed on the purchase of the property in early March. Once the complex has been designed, the Township expects to bid the project out for construction in the fall. Groundbreaking is expected during late 2004 or spring 2005. Construction of the new facilities is expected to take 10-12 months.

More information is available on the Plymouth Township website www.plymouthtp.org. Click on the scrolling applet on the home page for a list of FAQ's about the new Township Hall.

Solid Waste Notes: Curbside yard waste collection resumes March 29, 2004

Curbside yard waste collection is seasonal

Should Mother Nature choose to give us an early spring please remember that there is no curbside yard waste collection during the winter months of December, January, February and March. During this time you must keep/store any yard waste you generate on your property. Curbside yard waste collection will resume on March 29, 2004.



Alternatives for your winter yard waste

Since you cannot put yard waste out for curbside collection during the winter months you could consider backyard composting. Compost, coined as "black gold" by many gardeners over the past century, can do wonders for your lawn and gardens. There are many different ways of com-

posting from using specially made containers that you purchase, to containers you create yourself, to just a pile or heap in a corner of your yard. For more information and ideas try your local library, bookstore, the Internet or call the Solid Waste Department.

Household Hazardous Waste

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection day will be **Saturday, May 15, 2004** at the Compuware Sports Arena from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A complete list of acceptable items may be viewed at <http://www.plymouthtp.org/Community/SpecialEvents/HHWDay2.htm>, on Comcast Cable channel 12, Wide Open West channel 10 or you can call the Solid Waste Department with your questions at 734-453-8131 ext. 33.

Watershed Wisdom: Stop throwing money down the drain!

You may not hear it. You may not see it...
But you definitely pay for it.

Dumping waste into storm drains, ditches or waterways is illegal and contaminates the waterways, drinking water supplies, recreation areas and wildlife habitat. Cleanup efforts cost millions of dollars each year.
\$ That's your tax dollars \$

You Can Make a Difference!

Do not dump waste in our storm drains. Report illegal dumping right away. Your action will help prevent further water contamination and reduce cleanup costs.

And remember: all storm drains discharge directly into your local lake or river. No filters, no treatment.

To report illegal dumping call 734-354-3223.

For hazardous or flammable spills, call 9-1-1 immediately.



Please take advantage of the Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 15 to ensure proper disposal of your hazardous wastes. For information on this year's event please refer to the "Solid Waste Notes" section of this newsletter or contact the Solid Waste Department at 734-453-8131 ext. 33.

Plymouth Township named "Hot Town" by magazine

Plymouth Township was recognized by *Money* magazine as one of the country's "Hottest Towns", calling it one of the most desirable places to live in America. In the magazine's January issue, the article says that researchers used several criteria to come up with the list. The study took into account median household income, median home price, availability of recreational and cultural opportunities, and proximity to a major city. Just one other community in Michigan (West Bloomfield) made the list.

Township officials were pleased, but not surprised, to learn of the recognition. "We've known all along that this

is a great community with lots to offer" commented Supervisor Steve Mann. "Now people across the country will be aware of it, too. We have the lowest tax rate in Wayne County and are able to offer excellent services to our residents. The Plymouth-Canton School District is exceptional; the Plymouth Symphony, Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Historical Museum offer varied cultural opportunities; and our recreational offerings continue to grow with the addition of the Spray-scape to our park in 2003 and the anticipated opening of the Lake Pointe Soccer Park later this year."

The article can be viewed at:
http://money.cnn.com/best/bplive/cities_table/.



Steve Mann

Supervisor's Corner: 2004 is off to a great start

Soon we will be opening up our doors and windows to greet the arrival of spring.

Spring is a great time to catch up with our neighbors on their winter encounters. It is also a great time to keep you posted on the progress we are making at the Township.

Despite the continued down economy during 2003, Plymouth Township continues to prosper. Although the State has made numerous cuts in revenue sharing to local communities, we continue to respond with prudent financial management. We are just beginning our year-end financial process, but already know we finished 2003 on a positive note, and expect to make yet another contribution to our fund balance (savings).

2004 is off to a great start as well. I am eager to update you on all of the

exciting news that is happening. We continue to make progress on our new Town Hall project. During the first week of March we closed on the purchase of the Massey property. This 9.5 acre parcel, located on Haggerty Road north of Ann Arbor Road, will be the site for our new Police, Fire, and Town Hall complex. We also received a great number of bids for architectural services and are reviewing each application closely. We expect the design phase to take about six months, followed by construction bids. We are hoping to break ground by early spring of 2005. Construction is expected to take 10-12 months.

Early this year also brought great news regarding Johnson Controls (JCI). JCI has cancelled their plans to build a new facility in Salem Township. To our delight, JCI is pursuing their \$140M expansion plans near their current facilities in Plymouth Township (see article on page 1).

We also heard good news regarding Western Wayne Correctional Facility, the State prison located on Five Mile near Beck. Governor Granholm announced plans to close the prison, and put the 127-acre piece of property up for sale (see article on page 1).

We look forward to keeping you updated in future newsletters. If you haven't already, sign up for the e-mailing list on our website. Log onto www.plymouthtp.org, click on the reference desk and type in your e-mail address. You will receive periodic e-mail updates on items related to Township services, government and events in the community.

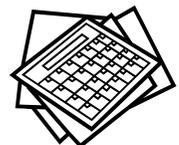
Board plans to keep water rates steady



With all of the recent media coverage, you've probably noticed that water rates charged by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) continues to be of concern to the suburban communities. Plymouth Township shares in that concern and is pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees hopes to absorb the most recent, 2.31% increase in

rates charged by DWSD for water, instead of passing the increase on to residents this year.

A preliminary review of the Township's water fund has shown that the fund is healthy and that operations should be able to continue at the current rate. Officials are still awaiting word on the DWSD's and the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority's (YCUA) proposed sewer rate adjustments for this year.



2004 Plymouth Township calendar shows "Signs of Progress"

Each residence in Plymouth Township should have received the 2004 Plymouth Township calendar in the mail in mid-December. If you did not receive a calendar, you can pick one up at the Clerk's or Treasurer's Offices, or contact the Supervisor's Administrative Aide at 354-3203 and a calendar will be sent to you.

This year's calendar, called "Signs of Progress" has some new features. The last couple of pages (before the flip-out map and street directory of Plymouth) include two clip &

save reference guides. One is the "Senior Citizens Page" which lists information and resources for senior citizens, including the senior transportation program. The other is a "Quick Ordinance Guide", which lists the ordinances that residents ask about the most, to be used as a guideline.

If you have an idea or would like to make a suggestion for what to include in future calendars, please call or e-mail Ann DeGhetto, 354-3203, or adeghetto@plymouthtp.org.

Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 PM, unless otherwise shown.

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

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PLYMOUTH, MI
Permit No. 218
ZIP CODE
48170

March:

Wednesday, March 17: Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 23: Board of Trustees

April:

Thursday, April 1: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Monday, April 12: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)

Tuesday, April 13: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, April 21: Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 27: Board of Trustees

May:

Thursday, May 6: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Monday, May 10: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)

Tuesday, May 11: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, May 19: Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 25: 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

DDA Update: streetscape coming to Ann Arbor road in fall



The Ann Arbor Road corridor facelift will continue this year thanks to a financial boost from a grant awarded by the State of Michigan in the amount of \$700,000. This funding will allow the Township to kick-off the revitalization of the corridor earlier than anticipated. This

area begins at the eastern Township boundary line at Eckles Road and continues west to Haggerty Road.

The Township applied for funding to improve this specific area because it is the Township's main commercial corridor and main entrance to the community. The State of Michigan will benefit as well from the enhancements to the I-275/Ann Arbor Road interchange.

Improvements will concentrate on the area from curbside up to the sidewalk and include a two-foot wide concrete verge to create an aesthetic transition from the roadway to

the grassy area. Other features will be the addition of street trees, decorative lighting and flowers.

The area beyond the sidewalk, generally between the sidewalk and parking lot, will benefit from the Township's matching funds which will provide for decorative fencing with brick columns, and lush landscaping with an irrigation system. The Township is currently pursuing easements from property owners to make these improvements possible. So far, there has been great cooperation from owners who recognize it as a great opportunity to improve the frontage of their businesses without any increase in cost.

All of this activity follows months of planning by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) which was put in place to revitalize the corridor. The DDA captures a portion of tax revenue from within the district which is then earmarked for reinvestment for improvements to the corridor. In the coming years, as more money becomes available, the DDA will continue streetscape construction from Haggerty Road west to a point just west of Sheldon.