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## 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  
Trustees:  
Kay Arnold 455-2683  
Charles Curmi 455-9658  
Ron Griffith 455-1083  
Abe Munfakh 459-7547

## Plymouth comes together in wake of national tragedy

Music and songs of patriotism, unity and peace could be heard for several hours on Sunday, September 23 at Kellogg Park. The "Plymouth Community Coming Together" concert was an opportunity for people to join with others to show support for all those suffering from the events of September 11.

The threat of thunderstorms prompted

organizers to set up under the shelter of The Gather-



**Matt Watroba, Josh White, Jr. and Neil Woodward were among the entertainers who performed in Plymouth on Sunday**

ing where the Plymouth Community Band; singer-songwriters Jan Krist, Gary Weisenburg and other performers did their best to lift the spirits of the crowd. Matt Watroba (see photo left) and the Plymouth Community Arts Council coordinated this event and encouraged all area residents and civic groups to join in.

## Plymouth Community Fire Department promotes, adds to ranks

The year 2001 has been a year of growth and improvement for the Plymouth Community Fire Department. Several promotions and new hires have taken place. The Department has plans to increase personnel levels over the next few years as well. There are currently 24 full-time firefighters that staff the three Fire Stations. This includes 18 Firefighter/Paramedics, 3 Lieutenants and 3 Captains. Chief Larry Groth has been given approval to hire 3 additional Firefighters in 2002 and 3 more are planned in 2004.

Promotions prompted by the retirement of Assistant Chief Al Matthews last year include Mark Wendel from Captain to Assistant Chief, Jim Haar from Lieutenant to Captain, and Chuck Russo from Firefighter to Lieutenant. The latest additions

to the department are Patrick Conely and Richard Abraham. These new Firefighters can expect to learn a lot from the long serving veterans of the department. Like Chuck VanVleck, Emergency Management Coordinator, who just celebrated his 30-year anniversary with the Fire Department. The Board of Trustees recognized Chuck for his years of service and dedication to the community at their meeting on September 25.



**Chuck VanVleck has served Plymouth for 30 years**

Gaining new skills has been a priority for the members of the department this year. They have completed training in Advanced Life Support (ALS) and the certification process should be completed by the end of this year.

## United Way plans to "Make A Difference" helping senior citizens

As part of its 2001 campaign, the Plymouth Community United Way is organizing volunteers to rake leaves for senior citizens in the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township on Make a Difference Day, Saturday morning, October 27, 2001.

**Seniors who would like help with general yard work are encouraged to call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 453-1234, ext. 236.** Then, on October 27, 2001 between 8:30 am and noon, a

team of volunteers will come out and clean your yard before Winter.

This community service project is part of the 11th Annual National Make A Difference Day. This is the nation's largest day of volunteering and is sponsored by USA WEEKEND Magazine and the Points of Light Foundation.

Anyone interested in joining the team of volunteers can contact Sue O'Connor at 451-3403.

## October is National Fire Prevention Month



### Fireplace Safety Tips

The Fall season brings with it a chill in the air that makes us want to get warm and cozy in front of a glowing fire in the fireplace. Before you light that first bundle of wood, take the time to review the following safety tips, offered by your Plymouth Community Fire Department.

- ?? Burn only hardwoods such as oak, maple, walnut, hickory, cherry, and apple in your fireplace to reduce buildup of creosote, a tar-like substance that can choke your chimney or cause chimney fires. Fireplace wood should be "seasoned" at least one year to burn properly.
- ?? Check your chimney periodically with a good powerful flashlight by looking up through the damper. If you see a black furry or crusty buildup of 1/4" or more, a cleaning is needed.
- ?? A fireplace should have a metal screen or glass doors installed in the opening to prevent escaping sparks or embers from igniting household combustible materials. Never use flammable liquids like gasoline or lighter fluid to start or freshen a fire. Do not burn trash or glossy parts of newspapers in your fireplace.
- ?? If you should experience a chimney fire, try to shut the damper to cut off the supply of oxygen and call 911 immediately. Get everyone outside!
- ?? Don't empty ashes until you are sure there are no glowing coals. When cleaning ashes from your fireplace, put them in a fireproof container and always store them outside for later disposal.

*Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. An easy way to remember when to do it is to change batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time in the Spring and Fall*

### More Fire Safety Tips

"Fire!" . . . a terrifying word when shouted. Statistics tell us that one out of every five homes in the United States will face a fire emergency in the next year. Most of these emergencies will be nipped in the bud by the home's occupants. Fires can start almost anywhere in the house and are usually caused by carelessness. You can help reduce the chance that you and your home will become a fire casualty this year by following these safety tips to eliminate fire hazards.

- ?? Install smoke detectors on each level of the home. 
- ?? Make sure there are two clear ways out of every room—and that everyone knows these routes and has practiced emergency escape.
- ?? Never smoke in bed. Use only sturdy ashtrays, and check for butts spilled in furniture.
- ?? Have your chimney and heating system inspected annually.
- ?? Take extra care in heating your home with portable or space heaters. Keep combustibles clear, clean regularly, and refuel properly.
- ?? Never overload electrical outlets, never override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers, and keep cords out of harm's way.
- ?? Store matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of small children.
- ?? Never leave cooking unattended, and keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles.
- ?? Never store gasoline inside the home.
- ?? Store paints, thinners, and other flammables in original containers, away from heat, sparks, and flame.
- ?? Keep attic free from combustibles such as old newspapers and magazines.
- ?? Display large address numbers that the fire department can easily see.

## Burning of Leaves Prohibited



**D**id you know that open burning is banned in Plymouth? Any burning of leaves, trash or other combustible materials without using a smoke stack or chimney attached to a fire chamber is prohibited.

The Plymouth Fire code states:

"All open burning will be prohibited within the geographical limits of the Township, unless otherwise authorized by the Wayne County Pollution Board or its successor and the Plymouth Community Fire Chief."

Let's all do what we can to improve the quality of the air we breathe.

## Composting and Fall clean-up

If you cannot burn your leaves, what can you do with them? Try mulching your leaves directly into your lawn rather than putting them out for curbside compost collection. This will reduce energy used to transport your leaves to a compost facility and will undoubtedly lead to a healthier lawn next Spring. Please remember that branches and bushes, up to 6 inches in diameter, will be taken at the curb as compost if they are tied in bundles with string or twine, no longer than 3 feet in length and less than 50 pounds.

The curbside compost collection program is seasonal. **The last day for curbside compost collection for 2001 will be Friday, November 30.** The 2002 season will begin on Monday, April 1. It is unlawful for waste haulers to deposit yard waste into a sanitary landfill, therefore, if you put yard waste to the curb during the months of December, January, February and March it will not be collected.

Collection of **Christmas trees** will occur during the week following the New Year holiday, January 2, 2002 through January 7, 2002. Trees can be placed curbside on your scheduled pick-up day. Plastic tree disposal bags, tinsel, garland and non-organic materials must be removed and placed in your regular trash.

**There is no curbside collection of trash or recycling on the following holidays:**

? ? **Thanksgiving**

? ? **Christmas Day**

? ? **New Years Day**

**Trash and recycling collection will shift one day later for the holiday week only.**

For more information concerning curbside collection or for resource conservation ideas please refer to your copy of "The Guide to Trash, Compost, Recycling and Household Hazardous Wastes" or call the Solid Waste Department at 454-0530.

## Play it safe this Halloween

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little troublesome. Concerns about children's safety—whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bountiful bags of goodies—can cast a spell on the evening's festivity. But not to worry! Following a few safety tips will ensure that Halloween will be a "howling" good time for all.

- ? ? Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights.
- ? ? Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- ? ? Drive slowly all evening—you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- ? ? Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police department.
- ? ? Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little one's aren't in danger near candlelit jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- ? ? Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- ? ? Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.
- ? ? Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision—a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.
- ? ? Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.
- ? ? Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be!



## Plan for a safe holiday shopping season

As parking areas fill during the holiday season, shoppers are often forced to park far from mall exits, sometimes in poorly lighted areas. Now that there is less daylight, you're likely to find yourself entering the mall while the sun is up and leaving after dark, so make sure there are lights nearby before parking. Other parking tips:

- ? ? Park as close to entrances and exits as you can.
- ? ? If forced to the far reaches of a lot—or even beyond the lot—seek a spot that's well-lighted or near a well-traveled roadway.
- ? ? Stow your purchases in the trunk. When you're weighed down with packages, you may be tempted to throw them in the back seat and return to the mall to continue shopping. If your purchases are in plain view, you may return to find your car windows smashed and your presents stolen.
- ? ? Save your most expensive purchases for last, so you can head straight home.
- ? ? Have your keys ready when you approach your vehicle. Before entering, check that no one is hiding inside.

## Inaugural youth police academy and bike safety event keep police busy this Summer

Members of the Plymouth Township Police Department spent the Summer getting involved with the youth in the community. A brand new program and a new spin on an existing annual event kept the Department busy.

The inaugural Youth Police Academy was held during a week in July at the Schoolcraft College, Radcliff Center, home of the Western Wayne Police Academy. Plymouth/Canton Middle School students from Pioneer, West, East and Central were given the opportunity to attend the academy and eleven applied. The purpose of the academy was for students to gain perspective on what police work is all about and the amount of training required to become a certified police officer.

The students went on a field trip to the 35th District Court, received classroom instruction, viewed a mock crime scene and went through a modified physical agility test. On the last day there was a graduation ceremony followed by a pizza party which included the students, family members and academy staff. According to Officer Bill Groff, one of the academy coordinators, the feedback from both the youths and their parents was very positive. "At the graduation the parents told us that the kids had been enthusiastic all week long and came home excited to talk about what they had done each day."

The Police Department does plan



**The Plymouth Township Youth Police Academy 2001 graduating class and staff.**



**One lucky bike rodeo participant collects his free helmet and other prizes after completing the obstacle course.**



**The Schwinn Bicycle Stunt Team put on a fantastic performance with gravity defying stunts despite the hot, humid weather.**

to offer the academy again next Summer and may look to increase the class size.

The Police Department's annual National Night Out (NNO) event was held at Plymouth Township park and featured a brand new event called a bike rodeo this year. Youngsters on bikes were put through a series of skill tests. "The kids found out that it was not easy, but they enjoyed the challenge" remarked Officer Jamie Senkbeil, coordinator of NNO for the past four years. "Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather conditions, our turnout was on the low side, but the citizens that came out and participated in the event seemed to be very receptive to the theme of 'bicycle safety'."

Many prizes and refreshments were donated by local businesses. Among other things, participants received free bike helmets, toys and gift certificates. Following the rodeo, the crowd was encouraged to sit and relax with refreshments while the Schwinn Bicycle Stunt Team put on a fantastic show. The team of four cyclists performed many stunts both on the ground and using ramps to wow the crowd.

The Police Department wishes to thank the Plymouth Rotary, numerous local businesses and a large amount of volunteers from the community who were so generous with donations and their time.

## Take these steps to avoid car-deer collisions

The majority of car-deer collisions occur during the months of October through December, between the hours of 6:00 pm and midnight and on rural two-lane roadways. These collisions can cause devastating damage to a vehicle and often result in serious injury or even death. Police advise you to keep your eyes on the road, never drink and drive, and *always* wear your safety belt.

Consider the following tips to help you avoid a car-deer collision:

- ? ? Use special caution in those areas marked with deer crossing signs.
- ? ? If you see one deer, expect there will be others. Slow



down and be alert.

- ? ? Do not swerve your vehicle to avoid striking a deer. It is better to strike a deer than another vehicle or a fixed object.
- ? ? Continually scan the fields and area adjacent to the roadway for deer. Often you can see them approaching the roadway and can slow down.
- ? ? During hours of darkness use your bright lights when no traffic is approaching. The high beams will illuminate the eyes of deer on the roadway or approaching the roadway much sooner, allowing a greater reaction time.
- ? ? Always drive at a safe and prudent speed.

## Supervisor's Corner:



Steve Mann

As much of our conversation and attention focuses on New York and Washington we pause in prayer for the families who have lost their loved ones. Our neighbors reach deep into their pockets to fill the fireman's boot at Kroger's, and to drop off donations at the Plymouth Market in support of the Red Cross. We drive Sheldon Road and watch the children at West Middle School waving flags and collecting pop bottles to add to the effort of our community. We send our support and love to help families rebuild their lives. We collectively mourn the loss of lives for this senseless act; while individually we seek out the strength to move on with our own lives and the life of our community.

We need now to take the words of President George W. Bush and put them into practice. We need to return to our community, our work and our future. In the days that lay ahead we should make a point to shop local stores and keep our hometown economy strong. When the plate passes in front of us at church we need to make sure that it is full when it reaches the end of the aisle. As Marching Band members approach us for donations we should remember how important the present is to the children who have only one childhood.

I join each of my neighbors in working to rebuild America. I take each day one at a time. I ask if my actions will main-

tain a strong hometown. With the strength of each block in every neighborhood and in each home in every sub-division we maintain a strong America. That is my wish, my hope and my prayer.

Plymouth stands committed to the words of President Bush. We will maintain the strength of our community and will join together with other communities to provide the strength that has made America great.

*Steve*

## Senior transportation service to improve with purchase of second van

Recognizing that seniors have needs beyond the current transportation options available to them, officials from Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth have agreed to work jointly to provide added services. With a \$56,000 grant from the Plymouth Community United Way, a second van will be purchased and is expected to be in service in early 2002. Senior citizens in the Plymouth community can schedule the 19-passenger vehicle to take them to local destinations such as a doctor's appointment, the hospital or shopping.

The Township and City still need to iron out details such as hiring a second driver, coming up with a schedule and funding the program on a long term basis. "We need to do more for our seniors to make sure that their needs are being met" said Steve Mann, Plymouth Township Supervisor. "It makes sense for us to work

together on this to provide the best service possible".

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*"We need to do more for our seniors to make sure that their needs are being met"*

*Steve Mann*

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Transportation arrangements can be made by contacting the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 453-1234, ext. 236. The Council also provides other services sought by seniors. Call the office for more information.

## Government meetings now shown on Americast as well as Comcast Cable TV

Meetings of the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission can now be seen on **Americast Cable, channel 10**. On the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday following a meeting, the videotape will be broadcast at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. If both the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission have a meeting during the same week, the broadcasts will alternate meetings and will continue

for two weeks. For **Comcast Cable** customers, the meetings are shown on **channel 18** on Thursday at 9:00 PM and the following Tuesday at 3:00 PM. For a listing of meetings scheduled for the remainder of this year, please see the last page of this newsletter.

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on the Internet at [plymouthtwp.org](http://plymouthtwp.org)

## Sheldon Road underpass project postponed until June 2002

Officials from Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth have been informed by Wayne County that the Sheldon Road underpass project which had been scheduled to begin in December of this year has been postponed. Representatives from the County indicated that the massive project still presented some challenge to the design team and they are continuing to work to form the necessary partnerships to insure the project's successful completion.

The City and Township were informed that the current timeline for the project shows construction starting in June of 2002. The entire project is anticipated to take nearly two years from start of construction to completion. Sheldon Road will be CLOSED at the railroad tracks for the entire construction period. Other County projects on tap for the area include the following:

### Please recycle catalogs

It's that time of year again when mail order companies fill our mailboxes with catalogs and more catalogs for the holiday shopping season. When you are done with these publications, please remember to recycle them.



## Plymouth Township government meetings:

*Meeting times are 7 p.m., unless otherwise shown.*

### October:

Tuesday, October 9: Board of Trustees.

Wednesday, October 17: Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 23: Board of Trustees

### November:

Thursday, November 1: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, November 13: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, November 21: Planning Commission

### December:

Thursday, December 6: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 11: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, December 12: Planning Commission



- ? ? Sheldon Road from Ann Arbor Trail north to the CSX Railroad will be repaved in the Summer of 2002.
- ? ? Ann Arbor Road from General Drive to Newburgh will be repaved in 2002.
- ? ? Beck Road from M-14 north to Six Mile Road will be widened to five lanes in 2002.
- ? ? Sheldon Rd. from Joy Rd. north to Ann Arbor Trail is scheduled for paving work in Summer of 2003.

The current reconstruction of the Haggerty Road bridge north of Edward Hines Drive, which had been scheduled to end in August, is expected to be completed during November, 2001.

To avoid becoming a victim of fraud, tear out and destroy the order form (if you haven't used it), along with any other customer information contained elsewhere in the catalog. Then stack them loosely inside the recycle bin.