



**Inside this issue:**

Fire Safety Open House	2
Wayne County reviews traffic signs	2
Watershed Wisdom: stop vehicle fluid leaks	3
Compost Season ends November 29	4
Supervisor's Corner: Vote November 6	5
New Township Hall Q & A	5
Sidewalk program continues	6

**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

## Police, Fire, and Town Hall Vote—Thursday, November 6

Plymouth Township voters will have an opportunity on November 6<sup>th</sup> to vote on the sale of bonds for the construction of a new Police, Fire and Township Hall.

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, acting on the recommendation of Supervisor Steve Mann, voted to sell the bonds at a meeting in July. Residents who desired to vote on the issue circulated petitions to call a special election. Once the petitions were filed and certified by Clerk Marilyn Massengill, a special election was set for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The need for new Township facilities has been recognized for at least twelve years now. The chosen site for the new Township Hall is currently vacant land near Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road, which will allow for the new facility to be built while offices remain functioning at their current locations.

Some have suggested that the Township should build at the current site. But quite frankly this would increase financing costs as it would be much more costly to have to temporarily relocate offices to a third location while the current facilities would be torn down, a new building constructed on the same site, and the offices moved a second time to the newly built facility. Additionally, the new site offers nearly three times the land than the current Ann Arbor Road and Lilley site.

In making the recommendation for the construction of a new Police, Fire and Township Hall the Board of Trustees felt there were several compelling reasons that brought this issue to the forefront at this time:

**1. Municipal bond rates** are at historic lows and the current state of the construction market offers very competitive prices.

**2. Efficiency.** The current administrative facilities are comprised of six separate buildings, five of which are located at the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley (Mill). The current Township buildings were authorized for construction in 1949 and were not designed for the electronic, computer, and telecommunications needs of today's world.

**3. Police and Fire Department.** Services currently provided have been haphazardly and clumsily retrofitted into these aged buildings. Combined, both departments occupy 10,952 square feet, while operations actually require 27,047 square feet.

**4. Identity.** A Township Hall building is the physical symbol of Township government for residents as well as visitors to the community. The current facilities do not reflect the pride we take in our community. Our Township Hall should mirror a great community. There are certain expectations we each have for our neighborhoods, that housing will be maintained, lawns and landscaping kept up; all resulting in pride in our neighborhoods. A new Township Hall, encompassing police fire and administrative services will create a sense of identity that we can point to with pride.

**What are municipal bonds?**

Municipal bonds are the most economical financing option for governments. The Township will sell municipal bonds, which will be purchased by investors, and the Township will then repay the investors over a twenty year period. This financing tool is very similar to a mortgage most of us finance our homes with; except that municipal bonds are available at much lower interest rates.

**The polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 6.**

## Fire Safety Open House draws families to Township

The Plymouth Community Fire and Township Police Departments opened up their doors to welcome visitors during an Open House event held on October 11 to recognize Fire Prevention Week. Attendees were given tours of the fire and police facilities, and had the opportunity to take a closer look at fire apparatus and police equipment.

At the start of the fire station tour, children were issued “passports” that were stamped when they visited each of several safety stations where they learned safety

information, including the importance of smoke alarms and making a home fire escape plan; how to crawl under smoke to escape a fire; and not to play with matches and lighters. “Sparky” the fire dog was available to take photographs with the children.

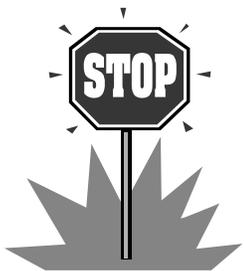
“We probably had 500 to 600 people attend our event” says Assistant Chief Mark Wendel. “We are pleased to be able to offer fire safety information to our residents at a fun event such as this”.



Photo on left: Families were encouraged to tour the fire apparatus.

Photo on right: “Sparky” the fire dog was at the open house event to pose for photographs with the young visitors.

## Wayne County reviewing traffic signs in Township



Many residents are wondering why changes have been made recently to traffic signs in their neighborhoods. In some areas, longstanding stop or yield signs have been removed or changed. In others, new signs have been added.

Under a Township form of government, jurisdiction and authority for all road right-of-ways lies with the County (in some limited instances, such as expressways and State trunk lines, the authority falls with the State). Almost all the roads in our community are under the jurisdiction of Wayne County. The County is responsible not only for maintaining the roadways, but

also establishing the speed limits and other traffic controls such as stop lights, stop signs, and yield signs.

Recently, Wayne County performed a county-wide review of all intersections. The County found that many of the existing traffic signs (stop, yield, etc.) were not warranted under current traffic standards. The County is proceeding to remove such signs, and in some cases, modify the signage at intersections.

**If you have questions or concerns about these changes, you can reach Wayne County at: (734) 955-2154 or your County Elected Official, Lyn Bankes, at (313) 224-0946.**



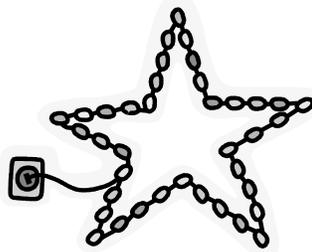
## Tips to keep you safe this holiday season

The winter holidays are a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining, and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment.

Take a few moments to read the following safety tips to help make your holiday season a safe and happy one.

### Holiday Decorating & Lighting

- ◆ Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- ◆ Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- ◆ Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- ◆ Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.
- ◆ Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- ◆ Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation (i.e., using clips, not nails).



- ◆ Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- ◆ Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

### Holiday Entertaining

- ◆ Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- ◆ Provide plenty of large, deep ash-trays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding, or flush them down the toilet.
- ◆ After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children (preferably in a locked cabinet). When smokers visit your home, ask them to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.



Source: NFPA fact sheets [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org)

## Watershed Wisdom: stop vehicle fluid leaks

The next time it rains, look down at your driveway or the nearest parking lot. See any colorful "oil rainbows" slicked across the pavement? It's a sign that someone's car is leaking fluids.



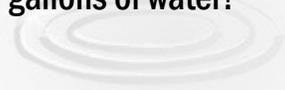
The rainbows might look pretty, but these fluid leaks are composed of highly toxic materials, such as antifreeze, motor oil, brake fluid and transmission fluid. When the toxics enter the storm drain system or leach into the soil, surface and ground water supplies are contaminated. And that means your drinking water supplies are put at risk.

You rely on your car for safe, convenient transportation. Why not treat it right and protect water quality at the same time?

- ◆ Repair auto fluid leaks right away. Use a drip pan to catch leaks if repairs are delayed.
- ◆ Collect and dispose of fluids from routine maintenance properly.

For help with home toxics disposal call the Solid Waste Department at 453-8131, ext. 33.

**One quart of oil can  
contaminate up to two  
million gallons of water!**



## Solid Waste Notes: Compost season closes November 29

Now that Autumn has arrived, the leaves have begun 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 pounds.



The week ending November 29, 2003 will be the last week of the 2003 curbside collection of yard waste. **Regular collection will resume on Monday, March 29, 2004.**

**Christmas trees will be collected for compost during the week beginning January 5, 2004 and ending Friday, January 9, 2004. Trees can be placed curbside on your scheduled pickup day.**

There will be **NO TRASH COLLECTION** on the following holidays:

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day

If your collection day falls on or after one of the holidays above, your trash collection will be delayed one day to include Saturday.

## Stay safe on the roads: winter driving tips

There are almost as many opinions as to how to drive safely on ice or snow as there are automobiles. Most crashes occur when you don't expect the surface of the road to be slippery.

Many people get into trouble by assuming the roads will not be slippery unless the temperature is freezing or below. Ice can form on road surfaces, however, anytime the air temperature drips to 40 degrees or less, especially when it is windy. Bridges and underpasses can be especially hazardous, but these are not the only locations "black ice" can form. Any low or shaded area, area surrounded by landscape, or area that has a source of water running over the pavement can also be quick to form ice. Early morning hours are especially dangerous as the moisture has had an opportunity to sit on the cold pavement and freeze.

Others find themselves in trouble during the winter while driving on roads seemingly clear or only slightly wet, and then try to stop at an intersection only to discover that it is ice-covered and slippery. This is caused by the moisture emitting from the exhaust of cars waiting at a busy intersection and quickly freezing on the pavement.

Always approach intersections cautiously.

Some other basic safety tips for winter driving include allowing extra time to arrive at your destination. Slow

down and be alert for other vehicles around you that may lose control, and allow at least 4 seconds between vehicles. Police also recommend you allow no less than a car-length in front of you when you are stopped behind another vehicle at a slippery intersection, and then watch your rearview mirror for cars that may approach you too fast from behind. Often this extra margin of safety will allow you to pull forward in the event that an approaching vehicle begins to slide. If the intersection is slippery you can signal other drivers to the danger by turning on your hazard flashers.



If you find yourself beginning to slide on snow or ice, **DON'T PANIC**. Take your foot off the gas and **DO NOT** hit the brakes. Steer the front of your vehicle **into the skid** (the same direction you are sliding). This technique is used in both front- and rear-wheel-drive vehicles. If you must use the brakes, do not allow them to lock up; gently pump the brake pedal, unless your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes. If your car has anti-lock brakes, use a firm, steady pressure **WITHOUT** pumping. The grinding noise you hear and the surging you feel in the pedal is normal and indicates the brakes are working properly, allowing you to continue to steer and control the vehicle. And for you 4-wheel-drive enthusiasts, always remember that a 4-wheel-drive vehicle provides additional traction that is useful for going through deep snow, but it **does not** stop any faster.



Steve Mann

## Supervisor's Corner: vote November 6—proposal will not increase taxes

On November 6<sup>th</sup> our residents will have the opportunity to vote on financing for a new Police, Fire and Township Hall. It is an important election for our community as it will serve our needs for years to come.

The issue is simple and straight forward. You are being asked to approve the sale of bonds for a new Township hall. No tax increase. If approved, the "mortgage" payment for our new town hall will represent less than 4% of our annual budget. I think most homeowners would appreciate having a mortgage payment that represented less than 4% of their household budget. Typically, mortgage payments require a 25-30% budget commitment.

We have worked hard over the past three years to tighten our belts. To reduce line item spending in a number of areas. To seek out the best possible interest rates to maximize the return on our funds.

At the same time, we have listened to our neighbors and taken projects, long put on the back burner, and acted on them. We constructed Miller Family Park, the very popular Sprayscape at Township Park, and partnered with

our schools to improve the neighborhood parks at our school sites. We sought out grants to revitalize the Ann Arbor Road Corridor, and are currently working with the State to design these long-overdue improvements. This winter our children and families will be able to enjoy ice skating in the new skating area at Township Park. Next year our children and families will be able to play soccer on premier fields at our new Lake Pointe Soccer Park.

All of this without an increase in taxes; keeping our taxes the lowest in Wayne County. Just doing our job of watching over the tax dollars entrusted to us. And with that trust comes a responsibility to provide the basic services that define quality of life – fire and police protection.

It was the recognition that our Police Department was operating with 5,000 square feet of space in a converted garage, and that our Fire Department, provided with high tech equipment used to save lives, was forced to store these priceless life saving instruments in whatever vacant space could be found.

Ron, Marilyn and I, as your full time administrators take our jobs very seriously. That is why we proposed to the Township Board a new Police, Fire

and Township hall. Not because we wanted to look good, but rather because we have reached the point that to provide these important services it was simply time to step up to the plate and build the facilities that prior administrations only talked about.

Your vote is your choice. It is only important that you vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions at all about the proposal on the ballot (remember it is only to authorize us to sell bonds representing less than 4% of our budget, it is not a tax increase as some have portrayed), please feel free to call us. We will be most happy to provide you with information relating to the study completed, the results of other site inspections, and the budget for construction and sale of existing properties.

For twelve years it has been talked about and now is the time to finish another project; an important project for our Police and Fire services, and for the future of our community.

## Q & A: New Police, Fire and Town Hall

**What is the cost of the new town hall and how will it be paid for?**

The cost of a new Police, Fire and Town Hall is set at approximately \$12 million. Here is how the cost breaks down:



- Land acquisition \$1.6M
- Construction of a new Police/Fire Building (27,047 square feet) \$5.1M
- Construction of a new Town Hall building (25,291) \$5.3M

**Total: \$12M**

**This will be paid for by:**

- Contribution from current general fund cash on hand: \$1.7M
- Contribution from sale of current DPW for their portion of Town Hall: \$1.8M
- Contribution from sale of current Ann Arbor Rd./Lilley Complex: \$2.5M\*
- Balance to be funded by municipal bonds: \$6M

\*Extremely conservative estimate. The property should actually sell near \$3M, all of which will be contributed to the new Police, Fire and Town Hall complex, offsetting the cost.

# 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

## November:

Thursday, November 6: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)  
Monday, November 10: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)  
Tuesday, November 18: Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, November 19: Planning Commission

## December:

Thursday, December 4: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)  
Monday, December 8: Downtown Development Authority (4 PM)  
Wednesday, December 10: Planning Commission  
Tuesday, December 16: Board of Trustees

## January:

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

**Attention Postal Customer  
Plymouth, MI 48170**



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

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Visit Plymouth Township government on  
the Internet at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org)

## Sidewalk installation program approved

At a recent meeting, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees approved the 2003 sidewalk installation program. This is an annual project in which sidewalks along major thoroughfares are installed. The goal is to improve the sidewalk infrastructure which allows residents to commute more easily and safely throughout the Township.

Sidewalk extensions will continue this Fall. The Board awarded a contract to complete the walks along Haggerty Road north of Schoolcraft and along Five Mile Road east

of Bradner. These additions are made possible by the generous cooperation of adjoining homeowners who provide the easements necessary for this construction.



Another project along Ann Arbor Trail will extend sidewalks west to Beck Road, enhancing pedestrian access to the Township's Recreational Park. Future plans envision walks along Beck Road and Powell Road to further extend links to the Park.

## Citizen Police Academy looking for applicants

The Plymouth Township Police Department is now accepting applications for the next Citizen Police Academy which will be held beginning in February 2004. All applicants must be 18 or older, live, work, or own a business in Plymouth Township and pass a background check. Topics covered include accident investigation, training requirements, patrol operations, K-9, firearms simulation, Detective Bureau, and alcohol enforcement.

"The objective is to give the public a working knowledge of the Police Department policies and procedures, through a series of classes involving instruction by Township police

personnel and other members of the criminal justice system" says Police Chief Tom Tiderington. "This is an opportunity for people who may not understand the role of a police officer to see things from a police perspective. It also allows the Department to learn about the concerns of the community members", he adds.

Applications can be picked up at the Police Department at 42350 Ann Arbor Road. For further information contact Officer Jamie Senkbeil at 354-3243 or by e-mail at [jsenkbeil@plymouthtwp.org](mailto:jsenkbeil@plymouthtwp.org).