

FALL 2013

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH



9955 N. Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170-4873  
[www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org)

Important Phone Numbers:  
Supervisor  
734-354-3201

Treasurer  
734-354-3214

Clerk  
734-354-3224

Assessing  
734-354-3267

Building  
734-354-3210

Fire (non-emergency)  
734-354-3221

Police Admin./Records  
734-354-3232

Water Dept.  
734-354-3270

## Community Curb Appeal! Ann Arbor Road Streetscape Enhances Township!

As the main corridor through Plymouth Township, Ann Arbor Road offers the opportunity to establish a unique identity for our community.

In 2003, the Charter Township of Plymouth approved a plan to enhance the aesthetic environment of the Ann Arbor Road Corridor.

Phase I of the project covered from Eckles to Haggerty Road (excluding the I-275 Interchange) and was completed in 2007.

Phase II of the project began this spring, running from Sheldon Rd. to General Drive. The work is now complete and includes the common elements found in the Ann Arbor Road corridor; stamped concrete, ornamental fencing with brick pillars, trees, plants and an irrigation system. The project was funded entirely by the Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA), not through the Township General Fund. The streetscape improvement project adds to the area's visual attraction, fosters a sense of place and promotes the Township as a thriving community in which to live, work and play.



*Pictured left to right: Richard Reaume (Twp. Supervisor), Shelly Ludtke (DDA board member), Jim Grutzka (DDA board member), Jana Radtke (Twp. Planner), Jim Stevens (DDA board member), Mike Kolb (DDA board member), Dave Cook (DDA board member), Joe Barone (DDA board member).*



## Streetscape wins "Keep Michigan Beautiful" President's Award!

We are pleased to announce the Ann Arbor Rd. Streetscape project has been awarded the "President's Plaque" by the Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) organization. This is the highest honor given by KMB, in recognition of beautification and environmental enhancements made throughout Michigan. Plymouth Township will be presented with the President's Plaque at a recognition luncheon on October 18th at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. For more information, visit [www.keepmichiganbeautiful.org](http://www.keepmichiganbeautiful.org)



# Charter Township of Plymouth

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Plymouth Community United Way needs your support!

The Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) 2013-2014 campaign is set to kick off and they need your support to continue to meet the human service needs of our neighbors.



With your support, PCUW has helped thousands of individuals right here in our community. This includes senior citizens, the disabled, children, families and others in need of assistance. In 2012, over \$500,000 was distributed to those in need through allocations, grants and designations. The PCUW works with community partners and agencies that you have selected as being the most important. To make a donation online, simply go to [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org).

If you support the United Way through your employer, please consider designating your donation to the Plymouth Community United Way. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call PCUW at 734-453-6879.

### New traffic signals at eastbound M-14 Beck Rd exit

Making a left turn off eastbound M-14 onto Beck Rd will be much safer and convenient now that new traffic signals have been added. Before the traffic light was added, drivers at this intersection often faced long waits, especially during rush hour. In addition, there were safety concerns regarding drivers traveling Beck Rd near the exit, possibly at higher speeds due to the lack of a traffic light. The traffic light is now fully functioning and mirrors the light at the westbound exit off M-14 onto Beck Rd.



### New Hines Park Memorial honors fallen First Responders



In honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, Wayne County has constructed a First Responders Memorial, recognizing the area's Fire/EMS and Police department officers who lost their lives while serving citizens. The Memorial is at the northwest corner of Hines Drive and Haggerty Rd., and will be dedicated on Saturday, October 5th immediately following the "Heroes on Hines" marathon races listed below. The Memorial will include monuments, seat walls, concrete walkways, a paver plaza, site furnishings, plantings as well as parking and lighting. For more information, visit [www.heroesonhines.com](http://www.heroesonhines.com).

### "Heroes on Hines" Half Marathon and 5K Run

In conjunction with the First Responders Memorial dedication, there will be a half marathon and a 5K race held on Saturday, October 5th. All proceeds will support the First Responders Memorial. First Responder divisions will have the opportunity to create their own teams for camaraderie and competition. Individuals will be invited to sign up on their own to increase the crowd support of this event. For more information and sign up forms, visit [www.heroesonhines.com](http://www.heroesonhines.com).



## TEN MILES... FIVE COMMUNITIES..ONE PATHWAY!



## ANNOUNCING A 10-MILE PAVED PATHWAY FROM NORTHVILLE TO CANTON!

As part of an ongoing commitment to sustainability, we are pleased to announce a multi-community effort to install a contiguous 10-mile pathway on Sheldon Road to Canton Center Road, from Eight Mile in Northville south all the way to The Summit facility in Canton Township. This project was initiated based on input from residents and businesses in the Northville, Plymouth and Canton areas.

The majority of the pathway is in place, and Plymouth Township and Canton Township will be filling the remaining gaps this fall. This connected asphalt/concrete blended pathway will provide a continuous connection between five neighboring communities – Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township. The pathway is also near several popular community parks, schools and shopping districts.

This is a very unique recreational addition connecting five beautiful communities and we encourage you to get out and enjoy it!

## Seniors!

We need you on the Plymouth  
Community Council on Aging



There is an outstanding resource right here in our community staffed by and for seniors! The Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA) is a non-profit organization operating a variety of programs that promote the independence and wellbeing of senior citizens. PCCA conducts a range of activities and presentations geared towards seniors and their specific interests and concerns, such as:

- Monthly informational and entertainment programs
- Community groups such as the PCCA Walking Club
- 12 issues of Senior Sentinel newsletter
- Fall Senior Picnic
- Luncheons (small fee)
- Information on referrals to senior assistance services and area activities

The PCCA office is on the first floor of Plymouth City Hall at:  
201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170  
For more information, call 734-453-1234, ext. 236.



# Charter Township of Plymouth

## Teeing up fun at Hilltop!



## Sign up now for 2014 leagues!

The 2013 season is just wrapping up, but it is not too early to sign up for 2014 leagues. Space has been filling up quickly so be sure to reserve your spot in one or more of our many leagues next year. We have spring, summer and fall leagues for all levels of play for men and women, including afternoon leagues. To sign up or for more information, call us at (734) 453-9800.

## Course improvements in the works!

Hilltop has always been a great recreation option, and plans are in the works to make it even better! For the 2014 season, the golf cart pathways are scheduled to be resurfaced and in certain areas replaced with new asphalt overlay. We will be expanding the parking lot, and at the same time, evaluating a new entrance on Ann Arbor Trail.

## Fall for These Specials!

Fall is a beautiful time to get out and enjoy Hilltop Golf Course! Take advantage of these special offers before the snow flies!



### **\$5 After 5 pm Every Day!**

Every day after 5 pm you can enjoy:

\$5 Green Fees

\$5 Cart Fees

\$5 Beers

\$5 Burgers

\$5 Sleeve of Nike Crush golf balls

### **18 Holes with Cart Specials**

Monday-Friday 18 holes with cart only \$20

Saturday-Sunday 18 holes with cart only \$25, add lunch for just \$4

### **Senior Special**

Monday-Friday 18 holes with cart only \$20

To take advantage of these specials, please visit [www.hilltopgc.com](http://www.hilltopgc.com) to print your coupons and get details on all the latest offers.

Carts are available on first come, first served basis. Not valid with leagues, special events, holidays, outings or other offers. Seniors offer good for those age 55 and over.



## Having a large get together? We can handle group events!

If you are planning an event such as a banquet, shower, group meeting or presentation, Hilltop has facilities that will accommodate up to 70 people, and they are available year round. For some extra fun, think about creating a golf theme for your event or possibly combining it with a golf outing. If you have questions or need more info, visit our website at [www.hilltopgc.com](http://www.hilltopgc.com), call us at (734) 453-9800 or stop by.

## PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK NEWS

### Announcing a 4-season pavilion, park improvements and plans for a new amphitheater

As part of our ongoing effort to improve your recreational options, we are pleased to announce the addition of a new pavilion, several park enhancements and plans for a new amphitheater within Plymouth Township Park at McClumpha Rd.

#### 4-season Pavilion

The pavilion will be a year round, multi-use facility providing a wide range of amenities for park visitors as well as rental opportunities and a gathering place for community events. The pavilion will include 1,675 square feet of indoor space including a warming room, ADA accessible restrooms and a view of the sled hill and pond. There will be 2,300 square feet of covered outdoor space for picnics and other group events. The pavilion will be located on the north side of the park near the ball fields.

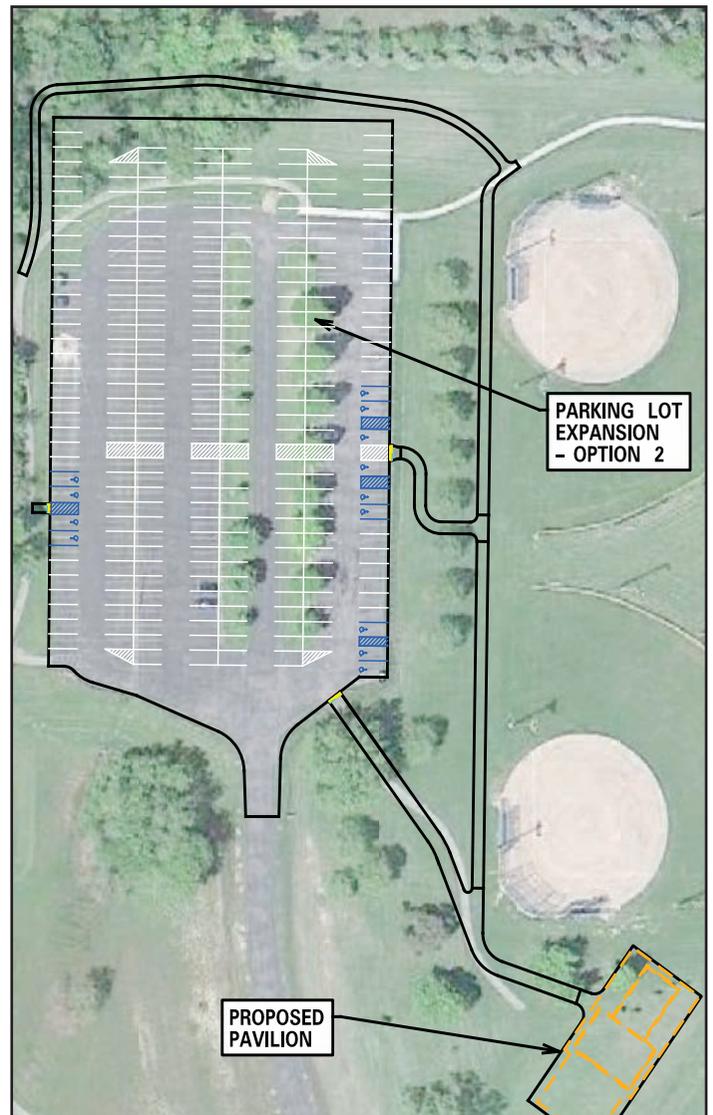
#### Park Improvements

Several enhancements will be made within the park, including expansion and repaving of the parking lot at the top of the hill. The lot will be completely reconstructed including the addition of under drainage and new pavement. The lot will be expanded from 158 spaces to 217, providing extra parking needed for the four ball diamonds and the new pavilion.

A new foot bridge and barrier free pathway will be installed leading to the fishing deck. The new pathway will connect to the existing path and pavilion, and also provides a new ¼ mile paved loop around the pond.

#### We're planning a new amphitheater

Plans are in the works to add an amphitheater that will provide an attractive venue for outdoor community performances such as small concerts, children's theater or storytelling. The amphitheater would be nestled into the woods, built into the hill, sloping down from the upper parking lot. The top of the amphitheater will include an ADA accessible paved area. The amphitheater will only host low or no amplification performances and will not host any community events currently conducted at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.



## FALL CLEAN UP? “LEAF” IT TO US!

### Fall Leaf Collection

Leaf collection is part of your regular curbside compost/ yard waste pick up. Leaves will be collected on your regular collection day as long as they are:

1. In paper yard waste bags which can be purchased at your local hardware or grocery store. Leaves left loose in the yard will NOT be picked up.
2. In a 35-gallon or less container marked “YARD WASTE” or “X” or “C.”

### Autumn leaves can mean a beautiful lawn next spring!

Why not save yourself some money, time and energy by keeping your leaves on your lawn this fall? How can that be? Trees take up nutrients from the earth and convert them into leaves, and when the leaves fall and decompose they release nutrients back into the soil. When you rake leaves up before they have a chance to decompose you short cut this natural process. After several years the soil has fewer nutrients to provide to your trees, your flowers, and your lawn. The result: a browner lawn next year.

Today’s mulching lawnmowers are not only good for mulching grass; they are also excellent at mulching leaves. Mower blades can easily shred leaves into pieces approximately 1/10th of their original size! These tiny pieces of leaves will disappear over the winter months with the help of the many earthworms that reside in your lawn releasing all those nutrients back into your soil.



## CLERK'S LETTER



Nancy Conzelman  
Township Clerk



## What it means to live in a charter township

### Township Living

Whenever I ask people why they choose to live in Plymouth Township the answer is invariably because they believe it is a wonderful community that is safe, friendly, beautiful, and a great place to raise a family. In stark contrast, we witness our neighbors in Detroit enduring the wrenching process of bankruptcy in order to salvage what remains of their once-vibrant community.

### City vs Township - Does it really matter?

When considering the multitude of factors that contribute to a community's wellbeing, the particular form or structure of the local government (e.g., village, city, or township), wouldn't necessarily be at the top of our list as being all that significant. In Michigan, however, there are fundamental differences between townships and cities in the way they operate that can have a big impact on the quality of life in a community.

The "township" is one of the oldest forms of local government in America dating back to the 17th century. In fact, 38 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence had grown up, lived under, and received the benefits of township government long before Philadelphia was established. We owe many of our present ideas of local self-governance to these colonial organizations, including the town meeting and the election of local citizens to individual offices and boards.

This local control is kept in check by Michigan's Constitution which limits the types of activities a township can undertake to only what is expressly permitted or fairly implied in the Charter Township Act. Cities and Villages, on the other hand have "home rule" powers to undertake just about any activity that is not expressly prohibited by law. A township's authority to levy taxes is also much more limited under Michigan law.

The township form of government is highly accountable to the people it serves because it is closest to the people it serves.

If you would like to learn more about the township form of government you can visit the Michigan Township Association website at [www.mta.org](http://www.mta.org).

## Wayne County Circuit Court Announces Changes to Jury Notification Process

Wayne County Circuit Court has changed the way it notifies residents about jury duty. Under their new one-step process, the questionnaire you receive in the mail is also your summons to appear for jury duty on a specific date. Please remember not to ignore or throw away the questionnaire, because there are penalties for failing to appear for jury duty.

For more information visit the Wayne County Circuit Court's website at [www.3rdcc.org](http://www.3rdcc.org) or call them at (313) 224-5261.

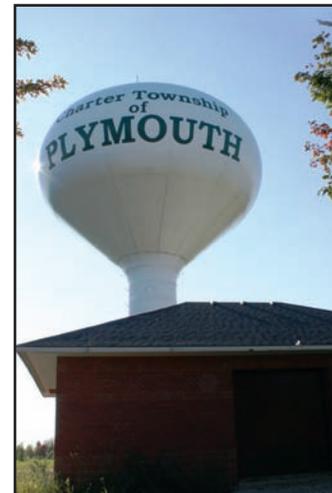
# Charter Township of Plymouth

## WATER WISE

### New Township Pump House to help cut water rates

As part of our commitment to control water rates and improve operations, Plymouth Township has constructed a new water pumping station, located next to the Township's water tower on Five Mile Rd. The pumping station houses two water pumps as well as control systems integrated with the Township's radio based Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

The new pumping station will help reduce water usage during high demand periods (early summer mornings and evenings). The benefit to residents is we can better control water rates since the amount the Township pays Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) is partially based on peak usage during high demand periods. The new pumping station will also improve water system operations by allowing more control of storage tank levels and flows.



### Keep storm drains clean and our environment healthy!

We want all Township residents to understand how important it is to our environment to keep storm drains clean. By not dumping substances like oil or anti-freeze down the storm drain we can help keep the Rouge River clean. Storm drain pollution also includes polluted storm water runoff that enters the drain during a rainstorm or snowmelt. This water picks up pollutants found in fertilizers, pesticides, oil and grease from cars, plus

bacteria from pet waste. Water that enters storm drains directly discharges into the Rouge River.

When storm drains are blocked it prevents water from entering. What we all need to do is make some small changes in our daily habits to reduce pollution coming into the river. One example would be not draining water into the street. If everyone makes a few simple changes, it will have a positive impact on the Rouge River and our environment.

### Save time with Automatic Bill payment!

Enroll in automatic Water Bill Payment to have your water and sewer bill automatically deducted from any participating bank, savings and loan or credit union account. Go to [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org) and then the Reference Desk tab to complete the application.

### 2013-2014 Water and Sewer rates per 1,000 gallons (as of July 1, 2013)

City/Township	Water	Sewer	Total
Plymouth Township	\$3.55	\$5.50	\$9.05
Northville Township	\$5.19	\$4.82	\$10.01
Canton Township	\$4.14	\$5.96	\$10.10
City of Northville	\$5.60	\$4.75	\$10.35
City of Plymouth	\$4.75	\$6.14	\$10.89

## TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR'S LETTER



Richard Reaume  
Township Supervisor

We are all proud of the community we live in, and it is nice to stop and take a look at the specific enhancements going on in the Township. Here are just a few of the new developments that are making Plymouth Township an even better place to live, work and play!

### **Job creation**

A thriving business climate and the ability to create new jobs are key to a community's long term growth. Over the past year, several companies have expanded or opened new facilities in Plymouth Township. This includes Globetech's move into the former Key Plastics building, completing extensive renovations and bringing 40 new jobs to the Township. Freudenberg will be opening a new Regional Corporate Center, and Webasto will be making a \$5.6 million investment in their Township facility, which will create or retain approximately 150 jobs.

### **Ann Arbor Road Streetscape**

Phase II of the Streetscape Project was just completed, which showcases the Ann Arbor Road award-winning corridor and adds to the environmental appeal of one of the most visible areas of the Township. The project includes stamped concrete, ornamental fencing with brick pillars, trees, plants and an irrigation system. This project was funded entirely by the Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority, not through the General Fund budget.

### **New pavilion and upgrades at Plymouth Township Park at McClumpha Rd.**

We are happy to announce a new addition to Plymouth Township Park, as well as several park enhancements. There will be a new 4-season pavilion to give park guests another option for outdoor events and activities. To improve parking, the plans include expanding and repaving the parking lot on the north side of the park. A footbridge will be added near the pond and a new 8-foot wide concrete pathway will be installed to complete a ¼ mile loop around the pond.

### **Making your Township an even better place to live, work and play!**

We can all be proud of the community we live in and the positive changes being made. I would like to say thank you to everyone because we all play an important role in making Plymouth Township a great place to live, work and play!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reaume".

Richard Reaume  
Township Supervisor

# Charter Township of Plymouth

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Globe Tech brings jobs and a fresh new look!

Globe Tech is a leading national supplier of stamped products, prototypes, tools, and designs to the military, automotive and commercial industries. The female owned and certified Women's Business Enterprise Company recently moved into the former Key Plastics building on Plymouth Road, east of Haggerty. The 176,000 square foot building was in need of major repairs, including all new roofing, lighting, sewer systems, and asbestos removal. Neighboring businesses personally thanked Globe Tech for improving the building and the surrounding area.

Globe Tech is proud to support our troops and it shows for everyone to see on their water tower visible on I-275.



### Johnson Controls continues growth and award-winning performance

Johnson Controls Incorporated's (JCI) Plymouth Technical campus is the headquarters for their Automotive Experience in North America. With over 1,000 employees in three buildings in Metro West Technology Park, it is the Township's largest employer. The Township campus consists of design, engineering, sales and development functions for automotive seating components. JCI was recently recognized in the J.D. Power 2013 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study as the supplier with the highest quality seats in two segments: Mass Market Midsize/Large CUVs and Mass Market Trucks/Vans.

JCI continues to see sales growth and expansion, and with that comes the need for talented employees, which also benefits Plymouth Township.



### Freudenberg expands Township presence with North American Regional Corporate Center

Freudenberg will open its new North America Regional Corporate Center to add to its growing corporate campus off Beck Rd near M-14. With options to open this new facility anywhere in the world, Freudenberg chose Plymouth Township based on the growing business opportunities and the ability to tap into such a talented pool of industry experts in this area. This new facility represents an important strategic milestone in Freudenberg's global presence, which includes over 37,000 employees in 57 countries. With regionally-located corporate functions, the Corporate Center serves as a global "hub" combining talent and know-how from around the world to meet customers' increasing requirements.



## Webasto invests \$5.6 million in Plymouth Township facility

Webasto, a leading producer of hard and soft tops for cars and trucks, will be making a \$5.6 million reinvestment in its current production facilities in Plymouth Township. This will prepare the company for two upcoming projects that will generate more than \$300 million in revenues and create or retain nearly 150 jobs in Plymouth Township. The projects represent the next generation of convertible programs for Webasto in North America after its purchase of the majority of Karmann USA's assets in 2010.



## ADVICS North America

ADVICS North America, Inc., an industry leader in automotive brake systems, will be enhancing its research and development facility in Plymouth Township with a \$1.5 million investment towards Hydraulics Lab & Brake Pad Prototyping. Located in Plymouth Township since 1997, the facility is dedicated to brake systems and component engineering, design, testing and prototype activities. This investment will help retain current employees while creating new jobs within the Township.

## Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank will be opening a branch office at the northeast corner of Ann Arbor and Lilley Roads. Fifth Third acquired the land by purchasing a portion of the old Plymouth Township municipal offices complex, and they will invest over \$2 million in the building and surrounding area. The new location will be a 3,000 square foot branch with drive-up and ATM service. Construction is due to be completed by mid-December and the branch will open for business in mid-January.



# Charter Township of Plymouth



**Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 N Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170-4673**

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## **Plymouth Township Board of Trustees**

**Richard Reaume, Supervisor  
Ron Edwards, Treasurer  
Nancy Conzelman, Clerk  
Kay Arnold, Trustee  
Charles Curmi, Trustee  
Bob Doroshewitz, Trustee  
Michael Kelly, Trustee**

**rreaume@plymouthtp.org  
redwards@plymouthtp.org  
nconzelman@plymouthtp.org  
karnold@plymouthtp.org  
ccurmi@plymouthtp.org  
bdoroshewitz@plymouthtp.org  
mkelly@plymouthtp.org**

## **Township earns another Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

We are pleased to announce Plymouth Township has once again earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This very exclusive honor is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to less than 2% of the 1,242 Michigan Townships. It includes a rigorous 78-point criteria list covering comprehensive budget reports, financial transparency to residents, and balancing the high level of services expected with fiscal responsibility.

This designation is not just a positive for Plymouth Township government, it is recognition of the community as a whole, and that your tax dollars are hard at work to make sure you get the most from your community. We welcome your comments or questions about this certificate or any other Township financial matters.



Township Clerk Nancy Conzelman and  
Township Treasurer Ron Edwards