

Ann Arbor Road Corridor: improvements update

We are putting the finishing touches on the Ann Arbor Road corridor in the area near Haggerty Road and continuing east to Eckles, our border with Livonia. The members of the Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recently viewed for themselves the improvements that have been made thus far to the corridor.

Brick columns, decorative fencing, and landscaping, including trees and flowers, have all been put into place. Two new gateway structures, modeled after the nearby clock tower, were installed at the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty Road (see photo top right).

Funding for the project comes from a federal grant with matching Township funds that are generated by a portion of the tax revenue from within the development district. The funds generated are specifically earmarked for investment in corridor improvements and represent dollars that otherwise would have left the community.

The DDA will continue to work toward keeping our development district and community vibrant as they extend the improvements along the Ann Arbor Road corridor investing right here in Plymouth Township.



Downtown Development Authority members Mike Kolb, Richard Reaume, Dave Cook, Joseph Barone, Si Nahra, Tom Booth, Jim Grutza, and Michelle Ludtke. Not pictured: Ron Kasperski.

Streetscape improvements have been installed along Ann Arbor Road between Eckles and Haggerty.



New Township Hall celebrated with girder signing ceremony



Lee Fidge, former Township Trustee, was among the many to sign the girder at the ceremony on June 21.



The girder has become a permanent part of the new Police Station.



The new Fire Station is located in front of Township Hall, closer to Haggerty Road.

Passport application service available at Clerk's Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under 16—\$52.00 basic fee, \$30.00 processing fee:
Total fee \$82.00.

16 and over—\$67.00 basic fee, \$30.00 processing fee:
Total fee \$97.00.

Processing Time: Customers making routine applications should receive their passports within six weeks. All

inquiries on processing must be made directly to the National Passport Information Center at (877) 487-2778.

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



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

Incomplete submissions will delay passport issuance.

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

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

Solid Waste Notes: New waste hauler in Plymouth Township



You may have noticed that we have a new waste hauler collecting trash in Plymouth Township. Our contract with Republic Waste expired on July 1, 2005. After an extensive bid process, the Board of Trustees, on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, awarded our next 5 year contract for solid waste, recycling and compost collection to Allied Waste Systems, Inc. This process has resulted in considerable cost savings to the Township.

How does this affect your collection?

This change in hauler will not affect the day of your collection or the items you can currently set out curbside. Please refer to your Guide to Trash, Compost, Recycling and Household Hazardous Wastes, available at Township offices, for a comprehensive list of items that we collect curbside for trash, recycling and compost collection or you can log on to our website at www.plymouthtpw.org.

There will be a change, however, in how your recycling is collected. Through an innovative, new process, Allied Waste Systems is able to collect recyclable items without sorting them curbside. This means that rather than seeing your recycle driver separating the plastics, glass and papers before placing them into the truck, they are able to empty the entire contents into one compartment. In the short term this saves time and in the long term this will save you money. Don't forget, recycling not only helps to preserve our natural resources, it also costs less to collect than trash and, consequently, helps to preserve our pocket books! A list of items accepted for recycling is available on the Plymouth Township website at: <http://www.plymouthtpw.org/Services/PublicServices/SolidWaste/Recycling.htm>

Questions regarding solid waste pickup, composting and recycling should be directed to the Public Services Division at (734) 453-8131, ext. 33.

Watershed Wisdom: summer & fall lawn care tips

No. 1: Why your neighbor's grass is greener

Maybe your neighbor already knows that mowing high means a healthier, greener lawn.



The ideal height for grass is three inches. That's because taller grass has deeper, healthier roots. Once you've got tall grass, don't make the common mistake of

mowing it too short. Cut off just 1/3 of the blade each time you mow.

And while you're at it, leave those grass clippings on the lawn. They're the ideal fertilizer. Grass clippings are packed with essential nutrients. Plus they provide organic matter, which reduces soil compaction.

But, if you do use a commercial fertilizer this fall, remember that over-application of commercial fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides destroys beneficial microorganisms and disrupts the natural balance in your soil.

Fertilizing on the holiday schedule is best with one application on Memorial Day and one application on Labor Day or near Halloween. However, one application of low phosphorus fertilizer in the fall is adequate for most healthy lawns and saves you money.

A healthier lawn with less work? It's true. What to do with all that free time? Invite your neighbor over!

No. 2: Get clean on the green

Washing the car can be lots of fun. Did you know it can benefit your lawn, too?



It's true! Just pull your car onto the grass and wash it there. Your lawn will gladly soak up the water. Plus the grass will break down the soap and absorb any phosphates for use as fertilizer.

There's another bonus to getting clean on the green. Keeping soapy water out of storm drains and ditches protects water quality. That's because anything that enters storm drains or ditches is headed straight for the Rouge River. No filter, no treatment.

If you can't wash your car on the lawn, use a commercial car wash. Regulations require commercial car washes to collect and treat the wash water.

The Charter Township of Plymouth is proud to sponsor Wayne County's **DETENTION POND MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP on Monday, September 12, 2005, 6:00 pm—8:30 pm at the Plymouth District Library.** Topics will include: Detention pond maintenance, healthy lawn care, riparian corridor management, buffer zones and native plants. Please contact Wayne County for more information (734) 326-3936.

Check your meter readings: *a message from the Water Department*

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

This is also a good time to check for water leaks. With the arrival of summer, you may be thinking about home

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

Wayne County to host third Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2005, 8:00 am—2:00 pm
Location: Down River Cultural Center, 15100 Northline, Southgate, MI.

Wayne County's Department of Environment will be hosting its third Household Hazardous Waste Collections in 2005 for County residents. The collection is designed to accept unwanted household chemicals

for proper disposal and electronics (i.e. computer monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, and TV's) for recycling from residents.

For more information, please contact Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936. Collection sponsored by the Wayne County Department of Environment.

Spotlight on Recycling: corrugated cardboard



Most boxes are made of corrugated cardboard which is accepted for recycling by the Township's solid waste collection program. Nationwide, corrugated cardboard represents 71% of all recycled paper products with 81% of the paper recycling process completed in the United States.

Paper and cardboard recycling:

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions that could lead to damaging climate change.
- Saves money since recycling fiber is cheaper than harvesting and processing virgin fiber.
- Saves considerable landfill space, since paper products

constitute the largest fraction of MSW—accounting for nearly 40 percent of all MSW (municipal solid waste) generated, according to EPA.

- Reduces the volume of waste burned in waste combustors, thus reducing air emissions.

To prepare your corrugated cardboard to be picked up via your curbside collection please cut or fold cardboard into 2' x 2' sections and either place inside your recycle bin or bundle with string and place on top of or next to your bin.

If you are a resident of Plymouth Township and you do not have an orange recycle bin, please contact the Solid Waste Department at (734) 453-8131, ext. 33.

Ash Wood Disposal: new marshalling yard site

There are now two wood marshalling yards available in or near Plymouth Township for disposal of ash wood.

Early in 2004 several ash wood marshalling yard sites, funded by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, were set up in cooperation with the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture. These yards were set up to assist in preventing ash wood that could potentially house the Emerald Ash Borer from being transported out of the quarantine area.

One of the original sites was located on Eckles Road within Plymouth Township. To address the large quantities of wood that have been brought to this site, Asplundh Tree Company, the site operators, has relocated this site to a larger facility.

Environmental Wood Solutions has taken over the Eckles Road site.

Residents should contact the marshalling yards directly for more information.

SITE 1

Environmental Wood Solutions

(previously run by Asplundh Tree Services)
 13101 Eckles
 Plymouth Township
 Monday—Friday, 7:00 am—5:00 pm
 Saturday, 8:00 am—12:00 noon
 Contact: 248-391-9446



SITE 2

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)

32000 Glendale Road
 Livonia
 Monday—Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Contact: 989-772-4454

A letter from the Board of Trustees: “Thank you!”

Dear Township Resident:

We would like to express our gratitude for your trust and the support you showed by overwhelmingly approving the 10-year Police & Fire Millages.

On August 2, 2005, voters approved two important Police & Fire Millage proposals. The first was a ten year millage renewal for the period of 2006 through 2015. The second proposal was for a ten year millage increase. The funds generated from both these millages are earmarked and can only be used for police and fire operations.



Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

We know you value the services that the Plymouth Township Police Department and the Plymouth Community Fire Department provide. By approving these millage proposals they can continue to provide the same level of services you have come to expect.

We recognize and appreciate the trust you have shown in us and will remain diligent in the ways we spend your tax dollars and continue to work at moving Plymouth Township forward.



Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Charter Township of Plymouth

Plant a tree: Global Re-Leaf of Michigan can help

If you were one of the unlucky residents who lost a street tree due to the Emerald Ash Borer you are not alone. Getting together with your neighbors, homeowner association, and local youth groups to replant street trees will not only add value to your home, it will also save you money. Trees that are purchased in quantity cost less! The programs listed below will help you and your organization save money on purchasing trees. Both programs can be utilized by individuals as well!



- Nursery Discounts.** The Charter Township of Plymouth has asked local nurseries and tree companies to offer discounts to our residents on the purchase and/or planting of new street trees. A list of these companies and their discount information is provided on the Township's

webpage, www.plymouthtpw.org, or can be obtained by contacting the Division of Public Services at 734-453-8131 ext. 33.

- Global Re-Leaf of Michigan.** This not for profit organization offers a neighborhood Tree Planting Program that will cover up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing trees for a neighborhood tree planting effort. They also have an annual tree sale that offers trees at reasonable prices. Please contact Global Re-Leaf of Michigan at 800-642-7533.

NOTE: Wayne County is responsible for maintenance of street trees in Plymouth Township and does request that homeowners obtain a no cost tree planting permit before undertaking any planting in the road right of ways. Please contact Wayne County at 734-522-7371 regarding permit requests.

Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 PM, unless otherwise shown.

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

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

September:

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

Tuesday, September 13: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, September 21: Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 27: Board of Trustees

October:

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

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

Tuesday, October 11: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, October 19: Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 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

Fire Department offers free installation of smoke detectors to residents



In a cooperative effort with the Home Depot store on Beck and Five Mile Roads, the Plymouth Community Fire Department recently initiated a program to help keep the community safe. A Firefighter will install a new smoke detector, provided by Home Depot, to any resident in the Plymouth Community.

If you would like to have a smoke detector installed in your home, **free of charge**, contact the Fire Department at (734) 354-3221.

REMINDER!

**SEPTEMBER 14 IS
THE LAST DAY TO PAY
SUMMER TAXES AT
TOWNSHIP OFFICES
WITHOUT PENALTY**

Portable storage buildings not allowed



Residents are reminded that use of portable storage buildings (like the one shown in the photo), commonly used to store vehicles or equipment, are prohibited in Plymouth Township. All accessory structures

need to meet all the requirements of the building code and zoning ordinance. Temporary structures, as shown in the photo, do not meet building code requirements. If you need further information, please contact the Building Department at (734) 354-3209.