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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

Township financially sound in trying times

It represents prudent fiscal management to set aside funds during positive economic times in order to offset financial setbacks during a downturn in the economy. Regional and local media are covering communities that find themselves dipping increasingly into their fund balance, especially as state revenue sharing declines, interest rates decrease, and health care costs are reaching annual double digit increases.

We thought it only fair to report back to our shareholders, our homeowners, on how the fund balance in Plymouth Township stacks up (see table below).

Plymouth Township has increased the available fund balance by seeking out utility cost savings, applying for grants and outside funding, and through prudent investment practices.

Year End	Fund Balance	Increase
December 31, 2000	\$4.8 million	\$292,244
December 31, 2001	\$5.2 million	\$356,983
December 31, 2002	\$5.5 million	\$346,747

Ash tree update: disposal, replacement tree discounts

The devastating effects of the emerald ash borer were discovered last July. Since that time, many trees of the ash variety that were planted along the roadways in Plymouth Township are dead or dying. Wayne County Division of Roads has already removed a total of 1060 trees. There are still approximately 300 stumps remaining to be removed. This should be completed by late May.

If your ash tree was not marked last year, and it is dead or dying, it may be marked for removal this year. The County will again be out surveying all streets in the Township in late summer and marking those trees that are 50% or more dead for removal next winter.

(continued on page 7, see "Ash Tree Update")

Sprayscape is set to open! Families invited to attend

On Thursday, June 5, Township residents are invited to join together for the dedication of the Sprayscape at Township Park. A special ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 6:00 pm and the Sprayscape will be officially open for use by our neighbors.

The Sprayscape was designed with help from the children of Plymouth Township. At the 2001 Good Old Fashioned Fourth of July picnic, children had the opportunity to vote on which features would be

included. Supervisor Steve Mann feels that, "this furthers our statement that Plymouth Township is a family oriented, youth directed community."



Mark your calendar now and come on out on Thursday, June 5 at 6:00 pm!

Decision near on new Township Hall

A final report reviewing the possible construction of a new Plymouth Township Hall as a part of the “Massey property” development at the corner of Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road is expected to make its way to the public arena within the next month. The report, commissioned by the Township Board of Trustees, was taken as part of a study into replacing the existing campus of Township offices, built in the 1950’s, and encompassing five different buildings.

Steve Mann, Township Supervisor, in preparation for the submission of a final report, has reviewed additional sites seeking to determine other feasible options.

One of the first buildings reviewed was the Chrysler Engineering complex immediately east of the railroad overpass on Ann Arbor Road. It was felt by many that this building was in a perfect location, offered a generous amount of space, and would allow for recreational programming as well.

“After meeting with representatives of the owner it was determined that they are not interested in selling, rather are looking for a lease agreement. That, coupled with the size of the complex, which is nearly 130,000 sq. ft. made the property economically unfavorable.”

For years the Township has discussed the need for a new Township Hall of approximately 60,000 sq. ft., which would allow all the current departments to operate under one roof. Additionally, this space would house our Police Department and Fire Station One.

There have been three other sites discussed and considered: at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck; the “Massey” property; and the current location.

Supervisor Mann is especially concerned about the final cost, as no matter which site is settled on the voters will have the ultimate say in approving a bond issue to pay for the construction.

For years Plymouth Township has discussed the need for a new Township Hall.

“With each site appraisal we always come back to the cost. The consultants have suggested that rebuilding at the current site will run 15-20% higher because of the need to relocate during construction. The relocation of the police department for up to one year is an expensive item.”

Mann is looking to have a final decision by the Township Board of Trustees before summer arrives. “The final decision is up to the Board of Trustees, but this is an issue that has been discussed for nearly ten years and it is time for us to bring it to resolution.

“We must make sure that our taxes remain one of the lowest, and at the same time be able to provide cost-effective services to our residents. I really look at this as being prudent tax management which will benefit all of our residents.”

Families come first in Plymouth Township

Eight children joined their Mom or Dad on April 24th as Plymouth Township celebrated “Bring Your Child To Work Day”. The children spent time with their parent on the job, having an opportunity to see what Mom or Dad do in their chosen profession. At noon they gathered in the Township meeting room for lunch.

“I think it is important to provide role modeling for our children by letting them see where Mom and Dad go everyday. We took them out and showed them the fire engines, police cars, and street sweeper. I hope this is something we continue for years to come” commented Treasurer Ron Edwards. “This is an annual event that the children look forward to.”



Seated in truck, Taylor Antal (Sgt. Bob Antal, Police); standing, left to right, Chris Vignoe, Alisha Vignoe (Susan Vignoe, Solid Waste Coordinator); James Lewis (Mark Lewis, Building Official); Brian Mann (Supervisor Steve Mann); Nathan Hansen (Stephanie Smith, Dispatcher); Matthew Ankrapp (Betty Ankrapp, Treasurer’s Office); Rachel Lewis (Mark Lewis); Joann Coobatis, Human Resource Director.



Supervisor's Corner:

Last month Township employees spent a day at work with our children. Brian Mann was Supervisor for a day. By all accounts it was a positive experience for both the children and the parents.

Next month your neighbors, Trustees and I will be dedicating the new Sprayscape at Township Park. We will have a number of children on hand for this special ribbon cutting as we officially open this new feature; a feature that was in large part designed with the help of our children.

Taken separately these two events are just that, separate events; each standing on their own. But taken together as a part of a total concept they help to embody what is rapidly becoming a

signature for Plymouth Township. Family friendly.

As our Township Board continues to connect our neighborhoods with sidewalks it becomes easier for families and children to move from one subdivision to another; for families to stroll from one part of their hometown to another.

As our neighborhood parks such as Miller Family Park and soon to be Lake Pointe Soccer Park reach their full potential we add yet another element into our family orientation.

As our 4th of July Good Old Fashioned Picnic reaches its seventh year, offering relaxation, conversation, renewal and creation of friendships, we come to see our hometown as family friendly neighborhoods, at the core of which is a Township dedicated to underscoring an age old thesis; you only have one

childhood and adults have a responsibility to make it the best possible.

It is my hope that Supervisor Brian Mann, pictured here in my place, will one day take that lesson to heart and share it with his son or daughter. It must be passed on from one generation to the next.

The same holds true with our hometown. We must each do all we can to make it a community of which we are proud. Proud to live in. Proud to work in. Proud to play in. We must see to it that our family takes the best of each generation and builds upon it for the next.

That is what Family friendly is all about. Taking. Building. Giving back.

Steve

New Deputy Clerk gets started



Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill has appointed active community resident Joe Bridgman as her new Deputy Township Clerk. Bridgman, 36, a seven year resident of Plymouth Township, is a member of the Kiwanis Club and serves on the Plymouth District Library Board. He is married and has one child, Alexander. Bridgman is looking forward to meeting as many community residents as possible and encourages people to stop by the Clerk's office to say hello.

Youth police academy taking applications



The Plymouth Township Police Department has announced their "Third Annual Youth Police Academy", scheduled for the week of July 14-19, 2003. The past academies, held during the last two summers, were very successful and fun-filled. The one-week academy is for middle school students between the ages of 11 and 15 years. For more information, please contact Detective Bill Groff at 354-3245.

Help Rebuild Maybury State Park Living Farm

The devastating fire that recently occurred at Maybury State Park in Northville caused the tragic loss of the Living Farm, including most of the animals. The Northville Community Foundation (NCF) has created an Endowment Fund to help rebuild the barn, replenish animals, and for the basic upkeep of the facility. Recognizing the important of Maybury to our community and our schools, Plymouth Township looks forward to partnering with the State of Michigan and the NCF on this important project.

Volunteers are also needed. Contact the Foundation for more information. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please remit to:

**Northville Community Foundation, 321 N. Center St., Suite 130, Northville, MI 48167
(248) 374-0200, Fax (248) 374-0403**

Update: Ann Arbor Road Downtown Development Authority

Guests to our community will soon see an increase in construction and enhancement to the beauty of Ann Arbor Road—a major reason for the approval of the Downtown Development Authority.



Already, property is being cleared for the construction of the New Liberty Bank, just east of Sheldon Road.

The site of the former Sunshine Honda will soon be cleared to make room for a new complex of town homes like those under construction in Livonia at Six Mile Road and Farmington.



The former Dunkin Donuts site has already been transformed into a Quizno's Sub shop.



The Planning Commission has approved construction of a new office complex on Ann Arbor Road just west of Haggerty Road.

Having been awarded a \$500,000 federal grant, the Ann Arbor Road Downtown Development Authority is prepared to start the design work for a spring 2004 construction of the new streetscape from Eckles Road to Haggerty Road.

As all of the beautification takes place from Eckles Road west along Ann Arbor Road, the State of Michigan is preparing to start the resurfacing along Ann Arbor Road, beginning at Canton Center and moving west to Napier.

A part of this State project through our community is the placement of a much needed left hand turn lane at Canton Center Road. After residents of the area sent letters to Supervisor Steve Mann and State Representative John Stewart, the State of Michigan Department of Transportation agreed to conduct a traffic study immediately after the left hand turn lane is constructed. This will be the final step toward seeking approval of a long overdue traffic light.

Historic Cassady Barn to get new home at park

A piece of Plymouth history will be preserved and relocated to Plymouth Township Park where it can be enjoyed by all. Local developer Marcello Scappaticci has offered to donate a barn from the historic Cassady Farm to the Township. Located at the corner of North Territorial and Sheldon Roads, the Cassady property is being redeveloped into the Cassady Place Condominiums.

Scappaticci, wanting to preserve the barn and its historic value, contacted the Township in December of last year. In subsequent discussions it was decided that Plymouth Township Park, at Ann Arbor Trail and McClumpha, would be the proper place for the barn to take on a new life and longevity as a Nature Center. According to Public Services Director, Jim Anulewicz, the Master Plan for the park calls for a nature trail in the Beach-Maple Forrest, located in the northwest portion of the park. "The plan calls for a nature building to start the trails and utilize the existing park area. The barn will be a fitting and welcome addition to the park."

Scappaticci has agreed to dismantle, move and re-assemble the barn, foundation, and slab for the barn, at his expense. He has also agreed to provide equipment

and personnel to help create the paths. Ultimately the Township could include insulation, electricity and plumbing to widen the use of the barn. Site preparation work and reassembly could take place as early as this summer.



Supervisor Mann sees it as yet another opportunity for families to enjoy all that Plymouth Township Park has to offer year-round. "The addition of a Nature Center will further enhance the family atmosphere we are seeking with other planned improvements to the park, including the new Sprayscape. Mr. Scappaticci's generosity and willingness to give back to the community is to be commended.

Household Hazardous Waste Day scheduled for May 17—Saturday at Compuware

Got the spring cleaning bug? We all seem to get it when the weather turns warm. Not everything we find is safe for regular curbside trash collection. Here's your chance to clean up and clean out the proper way. Plymouth Township residents can drop off common household hazardous wastes from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2003, RAIN or SHINE! Collection will take place in the north parking lot of the Compuware Sports Arena located at 14900 Beck Road, between the M-14 expressway and 5 Mile Road. The use of this larger facility will help get you and your neighbors in and out in a timely manner. Your continued participation in this important event is essential to keeping dangerous chemicals from entering our waterways and harming our environment. Please note that a driver's license showing proof of residence is required at the drop-off site. You must be resident of the Township or the City of Plymouth to participate.

Can't make it May 17?
An additional date has been scheduled for
Saturday, September 6, 2003!
More details will be available as the date nears.
Hope to see you there!

Compost collection season has begun!

Spring is here! As you start to think about getting your lawn and gardens prepared for this summer, please keep in mind the basics for putting your yard waste to the curb for pick-up:

- ◆ Branches, sticks, etc. can be no longer than 3 foot in length and must be 6 inches or less in diameter. They must be bundled and tied with string or twine—no wire or plastic ties.
- ◆ Leaves, and grass clippings can be put into paper Yard Waste bags available from various retailers, or in a 35 gallon or less container that is **clearly** labeled YARD WASTE or X or C.
- ◆ Roots are not collected as yard waste, but should be placed in your regular trash.
- ◆ Compost is collected on the same day as your trash and recycling.

As with all of your trash, recycling and yard waste:

- ◆ Items must be to the curb by **7:00 am** on your day of collection.
- ◆ Cannot weigh more than **fifty (50)** pounds.
- ◆ Container/can size cannot exceed **35 gallons**.

Compost collection is seasonal and will end on November 29, 2003

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Adhesives
 Aerosol cans (up to 12 inches tall – no cylinders or fire extinguishers)
 Automotive fluids (any type including used motor oil and antifreeze)
 Batteries (all types)
 Computer equipment
 Drain openers
 Driveway sealer
 Fluorescent light tubes
 Gasoline
 Hobby Chemicals
 Laboratory chemicals (silver nitrate, hydrochloric acid, etc.)
 Lawn and garden products (fertilizers, herbicides, all types, formulas and brands, includes dioxin compounds).
 Medications (prescription and over the counter)
 Mercury
 Paint and stain products
 Pesticides (all types, formulas and brands includes DDT)
 Polishes (furniture and metal)
 Pool chemicals
 Propane cylinders
 Reactives (stump removal, water treatment compounds, peroxides, elemental metal-sodium potassium)
 Resins
 Solvents
 Wood Preservatives
 Items labeled acid, flammable, caustic, poison, caution, toxic, danger or warning.

Items Not Accepted

Smoke Detectors
 Tires
 Radioactive materials
 PCB containing materials
 Explosives including ammunition and fireworks
 Medical waste

Call the Solid Waste Department at 453-8131, ext. 33 for information on proper disposal of these items and for general information.



Computer equipment will be taken at the Household Hazardous Waste event on May 17 and will be put into a recycling program. Before you bring your computer in, you should contact the computer manufacturer or your software manufacturer about ensuring all of your personal information is erased from the hard drive.

West Nile Virus—be aware



Things to know about West Nile Virus:

- West Nile Virus (WNV) is a growing concern in the United States and Southeast Michigan.
- Most people (80 %) who are exposed to WNV never show signs and develop immunity to future infection.
- Symptoms include fever, headache, body and joint aches and may also include fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, and rash and generally occur within 3 – 15 days of a bite from an infected mosquito.
- Evidence indicates that people over age 50 are more likely to get seriously ill if they are bitten by an infected mosquito.
- Your best defense is to prevent yourself from being bitten by a mosquito.

Try these prevention strategies:

- Remove any standing, stagnant water, the breeding ground for mosquitoes, from around your home. Turn over buckets, toys, etc. that can fill with water. Clean your birdbaths and gutters frequently.
- Reduce your outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity, April to October from dusk to dawn.
- If you are outside during peak mosquito time wear long sleeve shirts, pants and socks, and spray clothing and exposed skin with an insect repellent that contains DEET (N, N-diethyl-methyl-metaltolamide). Remember that it should be used only according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Provide screening (16–18 mesh) on all outside openings (door, windows, etc.).

Check those meter readings



It is that time of year again to check the reading on your water meter to make sure that it is accurate. The Water Department is asking residents to check the readings on both the inside and outside. If you have the new "Pro-Read" system with an outside **touch pad** (looks like a rubber wall plate with a number) which sends an electronic reading, *this message will not apply to you*. If you have a meter

For additional information contact:

Wayne County Department of Public Health
(734) 727-7000
www.waynecounty.com

Michigan Department of Community Health
(888) 668-0869
www.wnvmichigan.com

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov

Charter Township of Plymouth
(734) 453-8131, ext. 33
www.plymouthtp.org

What to do if you find a dead bird

If you find a dead bird, it is recommended that you use gloves or turn a plastic bag inside out and scoop up the bird with the bag. Double bag the dead bird and place in your normal trash.



**Please report any dead birds to the
Division of Public Services at 453-8131, ext. 33.**

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.

Did You Know?

Lids for the orange recycle bins are available for purchase from the Division of Public Services, 46555 Port St., Mon.—Fri., 7:30 am—4:00 pm. Cost is \$4.00 each. Use of lids is not required.

Class of 2003 Hall of Fame inductees are announced

The Plymouth Township Hall of Fame Committee has announced the Class of 2003 Hall of Fame Inductees. These ten community founders and leaders will join the ten inducted last year in the Plymouth Township Hall of Fame:

The Rev. Rod Reinhart: a priest, poet, writer and religious leader has lectured on the World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation around the world, speaking at the United Nations, Oxford University, and Vancouver Canada.

Dr. Ralph Pino: nationally recognized doctor was the creative force behind the development of the Colony Farms neighborhood, one of Plymouth Township's most unique sub-divisions

Russell Kirk: a lecturer and writer he helped to found the conservative journal National Review. His memory is being honored this year at White House reception to celebrate the 50 years since Kirk founded the modern day conservative movement.

Wayne Dunlap: a leader in the local arts community serving as Conductor of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra from 1951-1979.

Helen Richardson: former Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Plymouth Township.

A.B. Markham was secretary of the first Township meeting in 1827 when the name Plymouth Township was selected, was elected Clerk of the Township, and was responsible for forming a Plymouth Township military company.

Theodatus Timothy Lyon: was one of the nineteenth century's most successful self-taught authorities in the science and practice of fruit growing. He was keeper of the Wayne County Poor House and was a board member of the Poor Farm of Wayne County. He was President of two railroad lines which later became the Chesapeake and Ohio.

Hiram Berden: an inventor, top rifle

marksman and Major General in the Civil War. He conceived the idea of forming special regiments of marksmen to serve in the Union Army. He organized the 1st Sharpshooters and eventually elevated to Major General. He invented a torpedo and torpedo boat.

Ebenezer Jenckes Penniman: the first resident elected to the U.S. Congress (1851-1853), was among those who founded the Republican Party in Jackson. He was Supervisor of Plymouth Township in 1842, 1843, 1844 and 1850. He was the President of First National Bank of Plymouth in 1871.

Eratus Hussey: one of the first settlers in Plymouth was the chief conductor of the Central Michigan line of the Underground Railroad. A Quaker and an abolitionist he was a presidential elector for the Abolition ticket in 1844. He helped organize the Free-Soil Party in 1848 and was among those who met in Jackson where the Republican Party was organized.

Ash tree update

(continued from page one)

In an effort to stop the Emerald Ash Borer from spreading throughout the United States, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has placed a quarantine on all ash wood in six counties: Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe. Under this quarantine, ash trees, branches, and firewood may not be moved outside these counties.

Plymouth Township residents have a couple of options for disposal of ash wood from their property:

1. **Curbside compost collection.** All of the compost collected curbside in the Township is taken to the Onyx-Arbor Hills composting facility located in Washtenaw County which is located within the quarantine area. The compost process involves chipping of the wood product. *Please see page 5 of this newsletter for more information about curbside compost collection.*
2. **Marshalling Yards.** To assist in preventing ash wood that could potentially house the Emerald

Ash Borer from being transported out of the quarantine area, four Marshalling yard sites have been set up in southeast Michigan. The Plymouth Township Planning Commission approved a local site for this purpose:

**Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Plymouth Industries Yard
13101 Eckles Road, Plymouth
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:00 am—5:00 pm**

There is no fee for disposal costs, however, a private contractor may charge you a fee to remove wood from your property, transport to a marshalling yard and offload the wood once at the yard.

Homeowners wishing to plant replacement trees are encouraged to take advantage of discounts offered by local nurseries. A list of participating nursery and landscaping firms, along with more detailed information on the topic of ash trees, can be found on our website at <http://www.plymouthtwp.org/Community/PublicNotices.htm> or call the Department of Public Services at 453-8131, ext. 33.

Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 PM, unless otherwise shown.

May:

Wednesday, May 21: Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 27: Board of Trustees

June:

Thursday, June 5: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Tuesday, June 10: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, June 18: Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 24: Board of Trustees

July:

Thursday, July 3: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Tuesday, July 15: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, July 16: Planning Commission

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

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Visit Plymouth Township government on
the Internet at www.plymouthtwp.org

Planning underway for Good Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic

Plans are being put together for the 7th Annual Good Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic. Once again, the neighborhood gathering for the entire community will be held at Township Park. The fun begins at 11:30 am.

Last year the Township used the occasion to celebrate its 175th birthday. As always, there will be lots to do, people to see, and a good time to be had by all. Gather up the neighbors, friends and relatives and make a day of enjoy-

ing your hometown community! Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs, and picnic blankets. Tell the kids to decorate their bicycles for the contest! The tradition of nickel hot dogs and ice cream will continue this year. Hope to see you there!



If you'd like to volunteer, please call 354-3214.

Five fun things to do in Plymouth Township in the spring

1. Take the whole family over to Miller Family Park, located on Ann Arbor Trail just west of I-275. The 3.5 acre park offers swing sets, a play structure and climbing blocks.



2. Do you like a good mystery or want to find a biography of one of your heroes? Get something interesting to read at the Plymouth District Library. Check out their web site at www.plymouthlibrary.org.

3. Take in a round of golf at Hilltop Golf Course which is located at Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail.



4. Reserve a shelter or pavilion at Plymouth Township Park for a family or neighborhood gathering. Call the Division of Public Services at 453-8131, ext. 33 for more information about making a reservation.

5. Visit the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sign up for an art class. They have many classes to offer for all age groups. Call 416-4278 or log on to www.plymoutharts.com.



Look for more fun things to do in the summer issue of this newsletter!