

New Township Hall, Police and Fire Complex is near completion

Township officials and staff are looking forward to serving the community in a more efficient and effective manner, once the new facilities are completed and the various departments are all located in one building.

A number of things prompted the Township to seek out a way to build the new facilities including the need for more space for the Police and Fire Departments and the increased costs of maintenance on the current aging buildings at the corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley. The current site is for sale and the Township is in negotiations with interested parties.

In November 2003 voters approved a bond proposal allowing the Township to issue \$6M in municipal bonds. The bond proceeds combined with additional Township funds made it possible for the Township to build a new Township Hall, Police and Fire Complex on Haggerty Road just north of Ann Arbor Road.

The much anticipated opening of the new Plymouth Township offices is expected to occur in late June, one year after the official groundbreaking.



The new Plymouth Township Hall facility will also include the Police Department and Fire Department Administrative Offices. The building is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd. just north of Ann Arbor Rd. and our anticipated move-in date is late June.

A new Fire Station is being constructed out front on Haggerty Road.



Second water tower to be constructed in Township

Residents of Plymouth Township will benefit from the construction of a new elevated water storage tank at Five Mile and Beck Roads.

Once the storage tank is operational the Township will purchase water from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department at off-peak rates to fill the tank and provide water to residents during peak hours. Homeowners west of Beck Road should notice an increase in water pressure as well.

The property where the storage tank will be located was part of the former Western Wayne Correctional facility. The parcel on Five Mile Road next to Home Depot was deeded to Plymouth Township by the State of Michigan. The project is expected to start this summer and be completed in late 2007.



Senator Bruce Patterson (at right) presents the deed to the property from the State of Michigan to Clerk Marilyn Massengill and Supervisor Richard Reaume.

Alert from the Police Department: “Internet Safety Update: MySpace.com”

The Plymouth Township Police Department would like to take a minute to talk to you about online safety. The internet is a great place to chat, do research and have fun. Despite all its usefulness though, we want you to know that it does have a “dark” side. Although we have not received a report from a victim due to their involvement with MySpace, knowing what and what not to do online can save you a lot of grief.

By now most parents have heard of **MySpace.com** - a free website which allows members to create their own online diaries (called blogs) to promote themselves and enhance their social networks. These blogs can contain music, photos, text and many contain sensitive or offensive information about their authors. The astounding popularity of MySpace and other similar sites warrants a close examination of the risks involved when young people access these types of websites.

Parents cannot afford to overlook the possibility that cyberbullies, child predators and other unscrupulous characters are among the millions of users who log onto MySpace every day. In seconds a predator can skim a child’s blog or online profile for bits of information which he can compile for his own use.

The MySpace terms of service agreement instructs its members that their blogs and profiles may not contain confidential information such as telephone numbers, street addresses and last names. Interestingly at the conclusion of the registration process age and city/state are automatically inserted into each member’s profile.

MySpace also requires that potential members be at least 14 years old. However since there is no verification of membership information it is easy for minors under 14 to obtain membership accounts. MySpace is too large to have a sufficient number of moderators to pre-

vent your child from seeing offensive material. With members of all ages using MySpace it stands to reason that not all content posted on MySpace is suitable for younger members.

Whether accidentally or on purpose, your child will not find it difficult to encounter pornography or offensive material on other member’s sites.

How To Protect Your Child



The main safety rule is to not post too much identifying information especially your last name. You should not trust your child to not post too much information even if you speak to them daily about it because children always think that it will never happen to them and they aren't in danger. Besides their friends tell them that it is safe and often children think their friends are more Internet savvy than you.

If your child wants to have a MySpace page you need to have access to it. When you explain to them that there are very real dangers, you can make the rule that if they want to use the computer they will have to share the access information. If you feel that you can't do this you can install **monitoring software** to see what they are seeing without them knowing it.

You can also install **filtering software** that will stop them from visiting the site. The Plymouth Township Police Department offers to its residents a **free copy** of Cyber Sentinel 3.0 software. Cyber Sentinel monitors Internet activity, email, instant messaging, peer to peer communications and all offline window applications, allowing you to supervise and manage inappropriate computer traffic.

Police announce Youth Police Academy in July

The Plymouth Township Police Department has announced that the annual Youth Police Academy will take place in July this year. This one-week academy is for youths between the ages of 13 and 15 years.

The Department wants to show the intellectual side of police work. Students in the course will learn about communications, forensics, traffic accidents, crime scenes, the K-9 Unit and of course routine patrol.

For more information please contact Detective Ryan Krebs at 734-354-3245.



Watershed Wisdom: lawn and garden care



As the weather warms, many homeowners begin planning for the summer's lawn and garden care. Don't forget our River! The Rouge River is one of our most important resources. Before you begin your lawn care regimen, consider these river friendly tips:

1. Build fertile soils with organic matter such as compost or mulch. Use mulch (shredded leaves, grass clippings or compost) around plants and on the soil to resist weeds and retain moisture. Compost is available at the Division of Public Services building located at 46555 Port Street.
2. Select plants suited for the site and climate conditions. Try contacting the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a list of plants native to Michigan or talk to your favorite nursery manager for plant types and availability.

3. Mow your grass at a high setting and let the short grass blades fall back onto the lawn.
4. Select a slow-release fertilizer to promote steady, uniform growth. Keep an eye out for the Wayne County fertilizer stickers.
5. Reduce the use of insecticides, herbicides and other pesticides on your lawn or in your garden.

If you use a lawn service find out what practices they use and encourage them to utilize some of the practices mentioned above. For more information and alternatives you can contact the Division of Public Services at 734-453-8131, ext. 33, try the community library, or go online! Some sites to try:

www.therouge.org
www.rougeriver.com
www.plymouthtwp.org



Johnson Creek Day 2006—Saturday, May 20

This annual hands-on educational event and celebration is put on by the Johnson Creek Protection Group (JCPG). This group was formed to help preserve and protect the Johnson Creek which runs through the northwest corner of Plymouth Township, Salem Township, Northville Township and the City of Northville.

This year's event will include several activities. Over 200 participants each year have learned about Johnson Creek its history and its ecosystem. This is a great event for families!

- 5K Trail Run/Walk at Northville Community Park (Beck Road north of Five Mile Road) Registration/Sign-In 8:00 am—9:15 am; Race starts at 9:30 am
- Children's Fun Run (ages 8 and under) at Fish Hatchery Park (Seven Mile Road between Center St./Sheldon Road and Beck Road), 11:00 am
- Trout Celebration (including nature discovery, trout fishing and fun activities for the kids), Fish Hatchery Park, 11:00 am—2:00 pm

For more information, contact Demetria Janus, (734) 214-1885, djanus@stantec.com

Solid Waste Notes: curbside compost collection is back!

Curbside compost collection is underway! As you begin your spring yard work please keep the following guidelines for disposal in mind:

- Yard waste including leaves, grass clippings, vegetative pruning, garden waste, wood debris and brush can be set out to the curb by 7:00 am on your regular collection day and no earlier than 6:00 pm the night before your collection.
- Brush and branches up to 6 inches in diameter must be tied with string or twine in bundles no longer than 3 feet in length—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 (maximum size) container identified with a compost sticker or marked clearly with 2 large "X"s or "C"s on the container. Yard waste stickers are available at Township offices. Make sure that the label is facing the roadway.



- Filled containers should not exceed 50 pounds.
- Compost is collected on the same day as your trash and recycling.

Wayne County to host Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Dates: August 19 and November 4
Locations: To Be Announced

Wayne County's Department of Environment will be hosting a series of Household Hazardous Waste Collections in 2006 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: plastic, paper & metal

Ever wonder what happens to the items you put out in your recycling bin?

PLASTICS

Water bottles become fiberfill for winter coats, sleeping bags, clothes, life jackets, car bumpers and auto body parts.

Bleach jugs become blue boxes, toys and drain pipe.

Mouthwash bottles become drain pipe.



PAPER

Newspapers & magazines are made into new paper products like: newspapers, tissue and paper towels.

Boxboard (cereal boxes) and Mixed Papers (office paper,

glossy newspaper inserts) are made into new boxboard. **Corrugated Cardboard** becomes new corrugated cardboard.

METAL

Aluminum & Steel Cans become new aluminum cans, rebar and solder.

Why aren't they sorting the recyclables?

Our recycling collector uses a "single stream process". Items are commingled and the materials recycling facility automatically separates the paper from the containers and then follows the traditional processing approach with a combination of both human and automated processes.

Junk Mail—Steps you can take to reduce it!

If you'd like to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive each day here are some steps you can take.

1. **Contact credit bureaus.** To stop receiving "pre-approved" credit card offers, call the credit card bureau at 888-OPTOUT (888-567-8688) or visit: www.optoutprescreen.com
2. **Call mail-order catalog companies.** Most catalogs provide a toll free (800) number for placing an order; call this number and ask to be taken off their mailing list.
3. **Reduce advertising supplements.** Grocery store advertisements are often accompanied by a postcard. Contact the company on the return address of the postcard that accompanies these advertising supplements. One company mailing these items is: ADVO, Inc. Consumer Assistance 888-241-6760.

4. **Request charities not distribute your information.** When you make a donation to a charity or nonprofit group enclose a note requesting that the organization not rent, sell or exchange your name with anyone else.
5. **Return junk mail.** Envelopes marked "address correction requested" or "return postage guaranteed" can be returned unopened to the sender by crossing out your address and writing "refuse, return to sender" on the envelope. Place mail back in your mailbox. **DO NOT** try to send back mail without that special notation; the post office will **NOT** return it to the sender unless it is so marked.



Supervisor's Corner: a look at our successes in 2005 and 2006



As we roll into spring it seems right to look at where we have been and where we are going in 2006. It is an exciting time for Plymouth Township as we finalize some previous initiatives and launch new ones. We are a progressive community and we continue to grow in economic development, roads and infrastructure, recreation and Township services.

Consider some of the successes of 2005 and early 2006:

- Strong economic development with the addition of new and diverse companies including New Liberty Bank, Aunt Millie's Bakery, Karmann R & D, Max & Erma's, Robert Bosch Corporation and the grand opening of the 118-room Inn at St. John's.
- Creation of an Industrial Development District on Five Mile Road which is already attracting new technology and research companies.
- Improvements to the Ann Arbor Road corridor (using federal matching funds), widening of Sheldon and Beck Roads, the Township-wide sidewalk repair program and the sanitary sewer cleaning programs.
- Improvements to the baseball diamonds, parking lots, shelters and restrooms at Township Park.
- Start of construction on the new Township Hall/Police Station and new Fire Station with consolidated offices.

We are well on our way to another successful year in 2006 and here are a few of the items looking ahead:

- Completion of plans and the start of construction on combination housing, shopping and restaurant plaza along Ann Arbor Road.
- Completion of Phase I of the Robert Bosch Corporation building project along with the 400+ jobs it brings.
- Completion of the sale and redevelopment of the prior Township Hall property.
- Reinforcing the bases of the Rockwell Sculptures at Township Park and improving the surrounding area. It was 20 years ago that Peter Rockwell, son of Norman Rockwell, was commissioned to sculpt these interactive outdoor play structures!
- Grand Opening of the new Township Hall complex and our opportunity to serve you even better.

Plymouth Township is a great place to live, work and play and it continues to get better. Looking back and looking forward the trend is clear; continued economic development, better infrastructure, new and improved shopping and recreation and even better services for you and your family.

I am proud to be part of our bright future and look forward to all that it brings. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of help.

Richard Reaume

Top Ten BBQ safety tips from the Plymouth Community Fire Department

Spring is in the air and its time to get the BBQ ready. Follow these tips to ensure that the season will be a safe one.

- Tip #1 Clean your grill of any cooking grease and rust.
- Tip #2 Have your propane tank refilled.
- Tip #3 Check your burner and replace if necessary.
- Tip #4 Replace the lava rocks if your grill has them.
- Tip #5 Make sure that the gas line is tightly connected to the propane tank.
- Tip #6 When using the gas grill, make sure you have it a safe distance from any structures.
- Tip #7 Do not allow children to light or use the gas grill.
- Tip #8 Do not allow children to play in the area of the gas grill.
- Tip #9 Never use your grill inside your home or garage.
- Tip #10 Always turn the propane bottle off after each use.

What should you do if a fire does occur?

- Should you have a cooking fire, remember to close the lid of the BBQ unit and turn the gas supply off.
- Should a fire occur at the propane tank connection, **CALL 911** and have the Fire Department respond.
- Keep everyone away from the grill and do not touch the valve of the tank with your bare hand as this may cause serious burns.

Always remember to check your grill over before lighting it. This should include the gas line connection at the propane tank. Your Fire Department and Chief Randolph Maycock wish you a safe and fun BBQ season!





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*Visit Plymouth Township government website at www.plymouthtp.org
Click on "Community" then "Special Events" for current information*

Q & A: Oak Wilt

WHAT IS OAK WILT? Oak wilt is a fungal disease that kills oak trees by clogging the water conducting vessels of a tree, causing it to wilt.

WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF OAK WILT? Oaks infected with oak wilt have leaves that rapidly turn brown, wilt, and fall off.

HOW DOES OAK WILT SPREAD? Oak wilt is spread overland by small beetles that are attracted to fresh wounds on oak trees or underground when an infected oak tree shares roots with a healthy oak tree.

YOU CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF OAK WILT! Don't prune or injure oaks from April through October. If injury does occur, cover wounds immediately with commercial tree paint or wound dressing.

WHAT IF I THINK MY OAK HAS OAK WILT? Contact your certified arborist or tree care company.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: visit www.for.msu.edu/extension/extensio.htm
or contact your Wayne County MSU Extension agent at 313-833-3412.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006
9:00 AM—2:00 PM**

COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA

A complete list of acceptable items may be viewed at:
[http://www.plymouthtp.org/Community/Special Events/HHWDay2.htm](http://www.plymouthtp.org/Community/Special%20Events/HHWDay2.htm), on Comcast Cable channel 12, WOW channel 10 or you can call the Solid Waste Department with your questions at 734-453-8131, ext. 33.

Attention Homeowners:



Here's an idea! Get together with your neighbors or homeowner's association and gather your items for the Household Hazardous Waste Day collection in one or two collection points. Maybe someone has space in their garage they would be willing to use for a short time period prior to the event on April 29 (see notice at left).

If someone in the neighborhood has a truck or utility trailer they might volunteer to pick up the items and transport them over to Compuware.

Working together we can all help to make our neighborhoods cleaner and safer for us all!