

Spring 2008



9955 N Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 453-3840  
[www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org)

**Important Phone Numbers:**

**Police, Fire, EMS  
emergencies 911**

**Assessing  
734-354-3267**

**Building  
734-354-3210**

**Clerk  
734-354-3224**

**Fire (non-emergency)  
734-354-3221**

**Police Admin./Records  
734-354-3232**

**Public Services/Solid  
Waste 734-354-3270**

**Supervisor  
734-354-3201**

**Treasurer  
734-354-3214**

# Charter Township of Plymouth

## Progress continues on “Plymouth Towne Center” development

Motorists on Ann Arbor Road near Haggerty have probably taken notice of the progress for the new retail center. The development - Plymouth Towne Center - already has some tenants moved in. The project includes a mix of commercial, office and restaurants.

In July of last year the primary activity on the site was excavation for and installation of underground utilities (sewer, water and storm water) and installation of the brick screening walls. A gap in the wall will allow residents in the neighborhood to walk into the complex when completed.

Only a portion of the buildings proposed for the project are being installed in Phase 1. Other features such as paving for parking and interior circulation and some landscaping have been put into place. Entrances to the development have been installed and a

traffic signal will be placed at the main entrance.

Two adjacent residential streets have been modified to eliminate through traffic. The southern portions of Gold Arbor and Southworth have been enjoined by a connector road into a “U” shaped roadway extending to and from Ann Arbor Trail. The residential roads will be used by homeowners of this neighborhood and will no longer have access to Ann Arbor Road.

Residents can keep up with the progress of this project by logging onto the Plymouth Township website [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org) and clicking on the link provided on the home page. For your convenience a narrative is provided and periodically updated, as well as several drawings illustrating what the project will look like. A full set of drawings can be reviewed at the Community Development Department located on the second floor of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd.



Plymouth Towne Center

## Supervisor's Corner: meeting the challenge to provide services



Richard Reaume

Today the issues for local government are more complicated and the resources more limited. Part of the challenge that we face in Plymouth Township is that services we provide affect every facet of daily life – and are taken for granted. We have not always effectively communicated the services we provide, nor have we explained the connection between those services and the cost of providing those services.

Plymouth Township is the form of government that is closest to the people and provides critical services essential to maintaining our quality of life and the other services demanded by residents: police and fire services, water and sewer facilities, planning and zoning, senior citizen services and emergency medical services. Most of the benefits from these services remain invisible and everyone feels safe until something happens.

If you need fire services you dial 9-1-1 and the fire department responds quickly. Maybe there is a break-in so you dial 9-1-1 and a police officer is there in minutes. Maybe there is an automobile accident and police, fire and EMS respond.

Many things that just happen are taken for granted. We have water for drinking, washing and flushing. We put garbage or compost at the curb and it is gone. We vote at church halls, schools and other local public buildings to elect presidents, governors and other local officials.

These are some of the services that Plymouth Township provides. As residents, this is how your local property tax dollars are spent. All revenue sources are limited and being reduced due to budget challenges at the state level. At the same time, costs of operating our local government continue to rise.

We are working hard and smart to continue to provide the services that residents have grown to expect by working together, increasing efficiency, using technology when possible and striving for continuous improvement. As with families facing a similar situation this is challenging indeed and we will continue to meet this challenge to ensure a balanced budget.

*Richard Reaume*

## Street sweeping program to begin April 1

The Plymouth Township DPW will start sweeping subdivision and miscellaneous streets on April 1, 2008 weather permitting. The program will start in the northeast corner of the Township, the Lake Pointe area, and work clockwise around the Township until finished.

Due to the amount of debris left on the streets during the winter it may take a month and a half to two months to get through the Township. **Check out the map on the Plymouth Township website that shows the approximate time frame when the equipment will be in each area and the sweeping route—[www.plymouthtpw.org](http://www.plymouthtpw.org).** Please keep vehicles off the streets during the sweeping process.

If you feel we have missed something after we have been in your area or if you have any questions please call the Plymouth Township DPW at 734-354-3270, ext. 3.



**Solid Waste Notes: curbside compost collection resumes March 31, 2008**

Curbside compost collection resumes Monday, March 31, 2008. 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 opposite each other on the container. Yard waste stickers are available at Township offices. Take care to ensure that the label is facing the roadway.

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

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day  
Saturday, April 26, 2008, 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Compuware Sports Arena**

A complete list of acceptable items may be viewed at:

<http://www.plymouthtp.org/Community/SpecialEvents/HHWDay2.htm>

or you can call the Solid Waste Department with your questions at 734-354-3270, ext. 4.

**Watershed Wisdom: planning your lawn and garden care**

As the weather warms, many homeowners begin planning for this 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 to residents free of charge at the Division of Public Services building located at 46555 Port St.
2. Select plants suited for the site and climate conditions. Look on our website, [www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org) 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 into 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 734-354-3270, ext. 4, try the community library, or go online! Some sites to try:

[www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org)  
[www.rougeriver.com](http://www.rougeriver.com)  
[www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org)



**Watershed Happenings:**

- March 2008**—Friends of the Rouge Frog and Toad Seminars at various locations, call 313-792-9621.
- April 26**—Plymouth Township Household Hazardous Waste Day at Compuware Sports Arena/734-354-3270 ext. 4.
- April 26**—Friends of the Rouge Spring Bug Hunt at various locations/313-729-9621/[www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org).
- May 17**—Johnson Creek Day in Northville Township/[www.jcpg.org](http://www.jcpg.org)
- June 7**—Rouge Rescue in Plymouth Township/734-354-3270 ext. 4.

## Attention Seniors! News you can use

### Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (Tax Rebate)

Seniors who would not normally file an income tax return for 2007, must file a 1040 or 1040A in order to receive a rebate under the Stimulus Act. They must write "Stimulus Payment" on top of the form. To get a rebate under the Act they must show a minimum of \$3,000 of Qualified Income on line 20A form 1040 or line 14A of form 1040A. Qualified income includes:

- Social Security Income
- RR retirement benefits
- Veterans Disability Pensions
- Veterans Survivors Benefits

NOT counted: SSI payments

(For AARP Tax Assistance call 734-453-1234, ext. 236)

### Long Term Care Connection

A new specialized Long Term Care information and assistance program is now available to individuals in western and southern Wayne County. Through a centralized, regional call center, trained specialists will assist callers with questions and concerns about Long Term Care (LTC) options and services. The call center will serve older adults and individuals with disabilities, as well as caregivers looking for support services and those interested in planning for the future. The service is part of a demonstration project in four parts of Michigan to simplify access to long-term care options.

The call center operates 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily. Dial 1-866-642-4582 or 734-727-2088. A LTC Information and Assistance Specialist will provide information specific to the needs of each caller.

### Wayne County Chore Services Program

Do you or someone you know need some help with home maintenance? The Wayne County Chore Program provides assistance to individuals such as lawn maintenance, leaf raking and snow shoveling. The program will also provide safety equipment such as wheel chair ramps (where funding is available), grab bars, raised toilet seats, and other safety devices that are necessary for maintaining a safe environment in and around your home.



Chores such as cleaning gutters, light plumbing, deep cleaning, and light home maintenance are also made available through the Wayne County Chore program. The Senior Alliance covers the cost of the chores through county grant funding. In turn, the client is asked to pay a cost share for the services rendered. The cost share is based on a percentage of the client's income and the cost of the services rendered. Please contact Linda DeVore at 734-727-2061 for more information.

## Protect your trees and the Rouge River: tree maintenance tips for spring

Proper maintenance and mulching of trees and shrubs is essential for tree health, longevity, and water quality protection. Trees add significant value to your home, save heating and air conditioning costs, and help absorb storm water, among other benefits. One large tree can reduce runoff by over 3000 or more gallons per year.

### Tree mulching guidelines:

- Place mulch around the base of the tree in a layer 2-4 inches thick. Mulch improves soil structure and drainage, protects tree roots, holds in moisture, and reduces weeds.
- Keep mulch 2-3 inches away from the trunk of the tree to avoid rotting. DO NOT pile mulch around the tree like a volcano!
- Use a shredded bark mulch that decomposes in 4-5 months – or put in a 1 inch layer of compost under

the woody mulch. Over 85% of all tree roots are in the top 18 inches of the soil; they need the slow-release nutrients from the compost.

- Extend the mulch out from the base of the tree to at least the drip line (edge of the branches) or beyond.
- Water is a critical factor for tree survival and health. Distribute water evenly over the root system and mulched area.
- Use soil nutrient tests to determine the need for fertilizer, if any. Trees that are well-mulched often do not need any fertilizer, since the organic matter from the mulch enriches the soil system.

For additional tips and diagrams, see [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org), lawn and garden section, "Trees for tomorrow" brochure.



## Check first! Many home improvement projects require permits

Planning on doing some home improvement projects in 2008? Before going forward with the project check with the Building Department to learn if your project requires a building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical permit. A permit provides the legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.



A building permit is required in Plymouth Township for:

- New Buildings
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, water heaters, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement finishes, kitchen expansions, re-roofing, siding, windows, concrete, etc.)
- Electrical systems
- Plumbing systems
- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning) systems

A building permit ensures that the proposed construction meets minimum safety standards and allows code officials to protect the public by reducing

potential hazards of unsafe construction. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections, the value of the property could be reduced and problems may arise when the property is sold.

After documenting the “Who, What, When, Where and How” of the job, along with providing any sketches or plans of the proposed work, a permit may be issued. Separate permits are required for electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. A code official will review the application for compliance with local and state requirements. If the plan meets the requirements, a permit is issued. If not, the code official will request necessary corrections.

A permit fee is collected to cover the cost of application, the review and the inspection process. Once the permit is issued, work can begin.

On-site inspections will be required to make certain the work conforms to the permit, codes and plans. More than one inspection is typically required on the project.

Finally, the code official will provide documentation when construction is complete and code compliance is determined. Please contact the building department at 734-354-3210 with any questions or stop by. The department has many handouts available to help you through the submittal process. Enjoy planning your 2008 project!

## 2008 Computer/computer peripheral waste collections

The Wayne County Department of Environment has scheduled several dates for collection of computers and computer peripheral waste.

**All collections will be held 8:00 am–12:00 noon.**

**Saturday, April 12**  
Henry Ford Centennial Library  
16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

**Saturday, May 10**  
Canton DPW  
4847 Sheldon

**Saturday, July 26**  
Compuware Arena  
14900 Beck Rd., Plymouth

**Saturday, August 23**  
Taylor Lanes  
24800 Eureka

**Saturday, September 13**  
Livonia City Hall East Lot  
33000 Civic Center Drive

Only the following will be accepted:

- Computer monitors and CPU's
- Keyboards & mouse devices
- Printers, copiers, fax machines
- Cell Phones

No boxes, manuals, or software will be accepted! For more information contact 734-326-3936. To arrange for large quantities, please call 313-964-3900, ext. 401.

# Charter Township of Plymouth

People our Priority



## Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

<b>Richard Reaume, Supervisor</b>	<a href="mailto:rreaume@plymouthtp.org">rreaume@plymouthtp.org</a>
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<b>Steve Mann, Trustee</b>	<a href="mailto:smann@plymouthtp.org">smann@plymouthtp.org</a>

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

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Visit the Plymouth Township government website at [www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org)

## Keeping Kids Safer on the Internet: Tips for Parents and Guardians

Nearly 30 million children and youth go online each year to research homework assignments, play games and meet friends. This increased access to computer technology puts children at greater risk of exploitation. Nineteen percent of children ages 10-17 surveyed in the U. S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Youth Internet Safety Survey received unwanted sexual solicitations online.



### FINDING THESE VICTIMS

Previously, predators loitered in parks. Now they no longer need to seduce a child in person. Using the internet, a child predator can enter children's chat rooms to develop relationships and, ultimately, solicit a child. These predators will GROOM a child and possibly even threaten them to get the child to exploit themselves. As these predators begin their dialog with the children it is possible that the predator will download a program (TROJAN HORSE), allowing them a backdoor to your computer to obtain personal information. Once this program is downloaded, without your knowledge, the predator will then be able to follow your child via computer, i.e. itunes, chat rooms, game sites, and the ability to look inside the computer for any and all purposes. The predator will use this personal information to scare, threaten and then to exploit the child.

### BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT INTERNET USE

Because we use the internet in different ways, kids and adults can learn from each other. By talking about Internet use with your kids, you are opening the door to discussing the important issues of personal safety and helping them engage in responsible behavior.

### ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO GO TO YOU WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS ONLINE

It is important to reassure kids if they encounter problems online or view something disturbing, it's not their fault. Discussing these issues openly may reduce their fear of going to you if they encounter something online making them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Be a resource. Let them know if they share the experience with you, you will try to help, not punish, them. At the same time help them understand what happened and avoid similar situations in the future.

### HELP US PROMOTE A SAFER INTERNET

For parents, to find more help online about Internet safety for kids, visit [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org).

If you have information to help in the fight against child exploitation, please report it to your local Police Department. You may also report it to the Cyber Tipline at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or 1-800-843-5678.