



## No tax increase for new town hall

Soon Plymouth Township residents will have a new home to call their own. The Board of Trustees has taken two important steps toward completion of a new township hall without any increase in taxes; a task that has been discussed for much of the last decade.



### Inside this issue:

Hazardous Waste Collection-October 4	2
Police/School Partnerships	3
Township website selected #2 in State	4
Friendship Station Renovations	4
Supervisor's Corner	5
Sprayscape to stay open until October 1	5
Fun things to do in Plymouth Township	6

The first step in this final process was actually in two parts. One year ago the Township Board unanimously approved setting aside money in this year's budget for the purpose of purchasing a nine acre parcel of the "Massey property." Last month, final agreement was reached and the Board gave approval to purchase the property using money earmarked by the trustees for this acquisition.

In the interim, citizen input continued to be sought, a study was conducted by Plante & Moran Cresa, and plans were put in place on the feasibility and necessity for the construction of a new hall on this newly acquired parcel.

Supervisor Steve Mann believes that these actions are part of an ingrained community belief that government should live within its means, with low taxes, providing financial stability, while offering basic services necessary to define quality of life. The purchase of the property and the construction of a new town hall will be done without a tax increase.

Budget projections show that the new town hall will be built from existing funds: the sale of existing township hall property (\$3 million), the sale of the DPW building property (\$2.5 million, of which \$1.8 will be applied to the new town hall), current fund balance (\$1.6 million), and bonds sold at historically low interest rates (\$6 million).

In making the announcement Mann is moving an issue that has been talked about for years from the planning to the

implementation stage. "We have involved community homeowner representatives, residents, professional management firms, and the Board of Trustees in reviewing, discussing and finalizing a location and a timeline. "We reviewed several sites in great detail. Each site had potential, but none met the criteria offered by this property."

Sites reviewed included the Chrysler/Ann Arbor Road building, the Port Street DPW building, a parcel at the corner of Ann Arbor Road/Ann Arbor Trail intersection, the Beck Road/Ann Arbor Trail corner, and the existing Lilley Road site.

"In each case the drawbacks, financially and esthetically, outnumbered the positives. The existing site became too expensive due to issues such as underground storm water detention, construction phasing, need for temporary facilities during construction, and such. Additionally, by moving from the current high-valued commercial property onto a less expensive parcel, the Township can offset construction costs by roughly \$1M from the sale of the property. The new Massey site also offers three times the space and will allow for a nice park-like setting" noted Mann.

The cornerstone of the proposal is that Township residents will not be asked for additional tax support to pay for the building. "We have been able to take the savings generated over the past three years along with the existing fund balance and put together a lean proposal for a new township hall and fire station."

### Important Phone Numbers:

General Twp. Government Number: 453-3840

Police, Fire, EMS Emergencies: 911  
Police (non-emergency): 453-3869

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

## Solid Waste Notes: Household Hazardous Waste Day—October 4 (Saturday)

**PLEASE NOTE—The date has changed!**

**NEW DATE:** Saturday, October 4, 2003  
**LOCATION:** Compuware Sports Arena  
     14900 Beck Road  
     North Entrance  
**TIME:** 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
**WHO:** Plymouth Township and City Residents  
     Driver's License Required

The collection will take place in the Compuware Sports Arena's north parking lot. Compuware is located on Beck Road north of the M-14 expressway. Your continued participation in this important event is essential to keeping dangerous chemicals from entering our waterways and harming our environment and our health.

A complete list of acceptable items may be viewed at <http://www.plymouthtwp.org/Community/SpecialEvents/HHWDay2.htm>, on Comcast cable channel 12 , WideOpen-West channel 10, or you may call the Solid Waste Department with your questions at 734-453-8131 ext. 33.

### CARDBOARD BOXES CAN BE RECYCLED!

Your Curbside Recycle Collection accepts both paper-board (cereal boxes, etc.) & corrugated cardboard (packing boxes, etc.). Please cut/bend your cardboard boxes into 2 foot by 2 foot sections

For a complete list of materials accepted in the curb-side recycle program please refer to your "Guide to Trash, Compost, Recycling and Household Hazardous Wastes" or log onto [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org)



If you do not have a guide they are available at various Township Offices or you can contact the Solid Waste Department with questions at 734-453-8131 ext. 33.

## Watershed Wisdom: late summer lawn care

Taking care of your lawn near the end of summer usually involves leaf clean up and fertilizing. Excessive fertilizer application will result in the fertilizer entering the Rouge River system and negatively impacting the water quality. Try these river friendly tips this fall and help be a part of the pollution solution in the Rouge River Watershed.



- ❖ Limit your fertilizer use to the holiday approach: Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- ❖ Choose a low-phosphorus, slow-release fertilizer. Phosphorus is a concern for surface water quality because it can promote excess plant growth which robs other organisms of oxygen. Slow-release fertilizers discharge nitrogen over an extended period of time and have the following benefits:
  - ❖ low burn potential
  - ❖ less frequent applications
  - ❖ more uniform response
- ❖ If you get fertilizer on your sidewalks or driveways remove it quickly so that it does not get washed into the storm drain.

- ❖ Keep your grass cut to length of 3" or higher. Taller grass encourages deep root growth and shades out low-growing weeds.
- ❖ Tall grass grows more slowly and needs less water and fertilizer.
- ❖ Practice Grass Recycling—let the grass clippings fall back into the lawn. The clippings contain 85% water, decompose quickly which releases valuable nutrients into the soil that can contribute up to 25% of the lawn's fertilizer needs for the season.



For more information and a list of river friendly fertilizers and stores that sell them visit the Plymouth Township website at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org).

## Township expands police liaison partnership with schools

In 1990, the Plymouth Township Police Department began a partnership with the schools by way of the elementary DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. Realizing the need to also connect with older students, the Department expanded this program in the middle school beginning in 1998. Additional program improvements have led the police and teaching officials to select the Michigan State Police TEAM (Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring) Program to continue their partnership.

Project TEAM advocates a proactive effort to make schools and communities safer, promote responsible citizenship, and encourage positive character traits. The curriculum provides students with a thorough understanding of laws and their responsibility as citizens to obey those laws. The TEAM program was developed over a three-year period—beginning in 1998 with program implementation, a comprehensive assessment in 1999, and statewide program integration in 2000.

TEAM uses age appropriate instruction to address topics relating to personal safety, violence, anger management, problem solving, weapon possession, gangs, traffic safety,

and substance abuse. The program's theme is not fear or intimidation, but rather education. This program integrates character education that promotes integrity, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and caring.

By presenting law enforcement officers as positive role models, TEAM encourages students to have respect for and trust police officers, and to support their role within the community.

TEAM is flexible and adaptable to virtually all classroom settings. Each lesson is approximately 30 to 45 minutes long and can be used as a stand-alone program for assemblies or special events, or instructed in a consecutive sequence. By working together, the police officer, teacher, and school official decide the best fit for the TEAM lessons. Locally, a decision to implement a “bullying” and “internet safety” lesson plan was agreed upon by the Plymouth Township Police and school officials.

In fall of 2002, the Police Department began teaching TEAM at the middle school level. The program will expand to the elementary schools starting this fall.

## Police Academy: another successful youth partnership

For the third consecutive summer, the Plymouth Township Police Department offered a week-long “Youth Police Academy” to Plymouth area middle school students. Twenty-four teens took advantage of the opportunity to learn about law enforcement from local professionals.

Topics included the Court and Probation System, Operations of the Plymouth Township Police Department, Traffic Enforcement, Simulated Firearms Training, Crime Scene Investigation, Defensive Tactics, Accident Investigations, Report Writing and Drunk Driving Enforcement.

Students participated in lots of hands-on activity, learning subject control using pressure point control tactics; firearm safety and taking part in simulated “shoot, don’t shoot” situations; and how to lift latent fingerprints from objects, to name just a few. The class was able to visit the 35th District Court and speak to Judge McDonald and Judge Lowe who answered questions and even let the students approach the bench!

The academy concluded with testing modeled after the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). A graduation ceremony, which included family members and academy instructors, was held for the class, followed by a catered lunch.

**Detective Marc Hoffman demonstrated how to lift latent fingerprints using tape and special powders.**



**On a field trip to the 35th District Court, academy participants learned about the Judicial System, including criminal and juvenile law.**



**Officer Dan Kudra explained traffic stop procedures as part of the Patrol Operations portion of the Youth Academy.**



## Outdoor lightning safety rules

Being outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, quickly move indoors or into a hard-topped vehicle and remain there until well after the storm has long passed.

Although anywhere outdoors involves risk during a lightning storm, certain locations are more vulnerable than others. These include: near the water, such as when involved in boating, fishing or just lying on the beach; near trees, such as on the golf course, near picnic grounds or hiking; high places such as house roofs during construction; in other open areas, such as a farmer's field.

Particularly dangerous is where groups of people congregate. This includes outdoor sporting events such as baseball, football, soccer and tennis; or other public events such as a fair or community festival.

Here are some outdoor lightning safety rules to consider when stormy weather hits:

- ◆ Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building. Carports, open garages, and covered patios or decks are NOT safe shelters.
- ◆ If no enclosed building is convenient, get inside a hard-topped all-metal vehicle.
- ◆ Get out of the water . . . off the beach and out of small boats or canoes. If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center of the boat away from metal hardware. Avoid standing in puddles of water, even if wearing rubber boots.
- ◆ If there is no shelter, avoid being the tallest object in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, crouch on the balls of your feet in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.
- ◆ Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.
- ◆ Do not take shelter under a tree.

Becoming familiar with outdoor lightning safety rules can save your life or that of a loved one.

## Plymouth Township website ranked #2 in state



The Township received notification in May that the 2002 Local Government and Community Initiative, sponsored by Daimler Chrysler Corporation Fund, had evaluated the state's county, township, city, and village web activities and selected Plymouth Township as the second best Township website in the state.

Supervisor Steve Mann references this award in commenting that, "we run an open government that gives more than lip service to the concept of accessibility. We are very pleased with this award and hope that more people will continue to communicate with us

through the information found on the site. We now have over 400 residents on our regular e-mail program, receiving information on a timely basis about activities, services, and programs throughout the community. Most of the residents signed up after accessing our website."

The Township's Information Systems Specialist, Bob Janks, acts as Webmaster and takes great pride in keeping the information on the site up to date. You can view the award-winning site at:

[www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org)

## Friendship Station renovations underway

The Township's senior citizen center on Schoolcraft Road, called the Friendship Station, is getting a facelift, thanks to some federal grant money. The restroom facilities are being completely redone according to current ADA requirements. All new windows will be installed in the building and a stage, which was not being used, was removed to make more room for tables and chairs.

Township officials met with a group of senior representatives to find out what their priorities were to make the facility more user-friendly and able to accommodate the growing number of members who use it. The improvements are expected to be complete in September.





Steve Mann

## Supervisor's Corner: Plymouth Township's path to partnership

As our summer season winds down and our families prepare for another school year it is time to reflect on progress being made, in our own lives and in the

life of our community. The school year provides an opportunity to start fresh, a new year full of hopes and dreams, of work yet to be accomplished and a chance to build on knowledge obtained before.

This same opportunity is available for our hometown of Plymouth Township. We look back on the progress made and make decisions on how best to continue, as we strive to offer services, provide quality of life and maintain our strong fiscal position.

Most if not all of the progress made over the past three years has come through the development of partnerships, involvement of people and the maintenance of priorities. The key to defining our quality of life has been the ability to create and implement partnerships. When our children and grandchildren come to us for help at home

they are creating a partnership that helps them build a better life, in school, in the neighborhood, or at work. That same partnership is so very important for the growth of our community.

The newly approved Plymouth Township Hall is a perfect example. Literally dozens of community residents provided input, feedback, ideas and suggestions. This homeowner partnership creates ownership, not only of government, but also of community. The end result is a feeling of cooperation, pride and commitment; cooperation as we help to determine how our community will look and function, pride in the exciting new gateway that will greet people coming into our hometown, commitment to the goal of living within our means and keeping taxes the lowest in Wayne County.

Another example of partnership can be found in our cooperation with the outstanding Plymouth Canton schools, and the realization that quality public education affects our property values and community stability more than any other issue.

Along the Ann Arbor Road corridor progress can already be seen for the implementation of our DDA. When Fox Hills wanted to expand their dealership they worked with the Township to create a landscaping plan to conform to a community/corridor concept, combining a beautification effort to enhance the entire roadway. A business/government partnership from which we all benefit.

As our children and grandchildren set their priorities for the coming school year, arranging their schedule for co-curricular activities, study, family life, and perhaps work, so too is your hometown continuing to maintain a set of coordinated priorities that will collectively enhance our entire community.

What holds all of this together, from our children and grandchildren, to our community, is the active ownership, participation and commitment to establishing and maintaining partnerships and priorities.

## Sprayscape open through September

The Sprayscape at Plymouth Township Park is open to all park patrons from Memorial Day until October 1, weather permitting. Daily operating hours for the Sprayscape are from 10:00 am until one hour before park closing.



Sprayscape Rules and Regulations are posted at the Sprayscape and designed to ensure the safety of all citizens using the park.

### Sprayscape Rules and Regulations

1. Sprayscape is an unsupervised area. Adult supervision is recommended.
2. Footwear is recommended.
3. Climbing on the structures is strictly prohibited.
4. NO skateboards, in-line skates or bicycles are allowed in the spray area.
5. Please no glass in this area for your safety and the safety of others.

## Lake Pointe Soccer Park near completion

Construction of the Lake Pointe Soccer Park, located on Haggerty Road at M-14, has been going well. Both fields have been planted and the landscaping is almost complete.

Township officials expect to schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony for next spring. Provided that the grass is sufficiently rooted, the park should be ready for league play in late summer or early fall, 2004.

Check out more photos of the soccer park on the Plymouth Township website at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org).



## Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 PM, unless otherwise shown.

### August:

Wednesday, August 20: Planning Commission

### September:

Thursday, September 4: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Tuesday, September 9: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, September 17: Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 23: Board of Trustees

### October:

Thursday, October 2: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 PM)

Tuesday, October 14: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, October 15: Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 28: Board of Trustees

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

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PLYMOUTH, MI  
Permit No. 218  
ZIP CODE  
48170

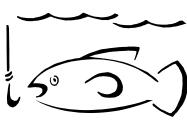
### Attention Postal Customer **Plymouth, MI 48170**



**Postal Carriers: Please deliver  
to PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP  
RESIDENCES ONLY.**

Visit Plymouth Township government on  
the Internet at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org)

### Five fun things to do in Plymouth Township as summer winds down

1. The Sprayscape is getting rave reviews! Located at Plymouth Township Park, the feature is open until October 1 during the hours of 10:00 AM until one hour before the park closes. There is no fee for use. Don't forget to bring your towel! 
2. While you are at the park, check out the fishing pond and dock! The pond is stocked with rainbow trout, bluegill, sunfish and bass. Michigan fishing laws prevail and catch & release is encouraged. For more information on the Sprayscape and fishing pond, call 453-8131, ext. 33.
3. Did you know that the Plymouth-Canton Community School District offers "community recreational open

 swim" at Central Middle School? Call the office for more information—(734) 416-2937. The District's website address is [www.pccs.k12.mi.us](http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us).

4. Take a walk through your neighborhood this summer! Get out and meet your neighbors. Explore on foot and discover the family friendly atmosphere of Plymouth Township.
5. Check out the 48th Annual Plymouth Fall Festival, September 5, 6 and 7. Show your support for the service clubs in our community and enjoy some great food at the same time!

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

### Senior Transportation Program

The Senior Transportation Program is available to residents of the Charter Township and City of Plymouth who are age 60 and over. The program provides FREE transportation to any location within the City or Township of Plymouth. A Medical Appointment Van offers transportation to and from specific hospitals (St. Joseph's, U of M, St. Mary's and Providence Novi) for a minimal charge. Rides are also provided to St. Joseph Medical Center, U of M Medical Center and Oakwood Medical Center in Canton.

Reservations to any of these medical facilities must be made 48 hours in advance. The Program also schedules "special" out of the community trips to various shopping malls, special events or other activities from time to time. To make reservations for any of these services, please call **(734) 459-8888**. Reservation lines are open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed holidays. Service is provided on a first call, first reserved, space available basis. Please call at least 24 hours in advance.