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New Police Chief, Tom Tiderington gets started

Officially sworn in as Chief of Police on November 13, 2001, Tom Tiderington has spent the past couple of months getting acquainted with the Police Department and the community. Chief Tiderington is Plymouth Township's third Police Chief since the Department was formed in 1985. He replaces Lawrence Carey who served for three years before retiring.

Even though Chief Tiderington has spent the past two decades living in sunny Florida, he and his wife, Phyllis, are both originally from the

Detroit area and have family living here. They and their three sons enjoy many outdoor activities and look forward to skiing this Winter.

Prior to moving back to Michigan, the Chief served

the rank of Captain. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Florida Atlantic University and attended the Southern Police Institute.

Since coming to Plymouth Township, Chief Tiderington has been meeting with personnel to gain insight into the Department's history and to get to know the individual members. He plans to bring employees into the decision-making process. A strategic planning meeting has been scheduled with the Command Officers to set goals and initiatives for



Police Chief Tom Tiderington accepts his badge from Supervisor Steve Mann after taking the oath of office prior to a Board of Trustees meeting.

21 years with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Snow removal in Plymouth Township

After the large snowfalls in December, 2000, many subdivisions who had not contracted for snow removal with a private company were caught unprepared to deal with the large accumulation of snow. Wayne County is responsible for plowing all Plymouth Township roads, but because they operate on a priority system, plowing major roads first, residential streets are left to do last.

This year, with encouragement from Supervisor Steve Mann, many homeowner's associations started early to make arrange-



ments for snow removal in their subdivisions. A list of more than ten private companies who provide snow removal services in the Plymouth area was compiled and made available to residents. A copy of the list can be obtained from the Supervisor's Office, 354-3203.

Homeowners are also required, by ordinance, to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snowfall. The ordinance also prohibits shoveling snow into streets.

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

The 2002 Plymouth Township Calendar was delivered to homes during the last week of December. If you did not receive your calendar and would like to have one, you can pick one up at the Clerk's or Treasurer's Offices or contact the Supervisor's Administrative Aide at 354-3203 and a calendar will be sent to you.

Plymouth Township Park has lots to offer in all seasons

Did you get a new sled or ice skates this year? Grab them up and head on over to Plymouth Township Park for some Winter fun! During the Winter season the Park offers sledding and ice skating, depending on the weather. To find out if the sled hill and ice pond are open for recreation, call the **Park Hotline at 453-3567**. Plymouth Township Park is located on Ann Arbor Trail between Sheldon and Beck Roads. Open year round, the park also offers a walking trail, fishing dock, children's Play-scape area and Rockwell sculptures. Entrance to the park is free.

Beginning **January 2, 2002, 7:30 AM**, permits will be issued for the 2002 picnic season. You must obtain a permit to reserve a shelter or pavilion at Plymouth Township Park. Reservations for the period of April 15 through October 15 can be made only in person at the Division of Public Services Building, 46555 Port Street. The permit



Phil Kozyan (front) has been caring for our Township Park for twenty years.



The sled hill provides an opportunity for the whole family to have fun!

fee is \$30 for residents, \$100 for non-residents, payable by check or money order at time of application. For additional information, contact DPS at 453-8131, ext. 33.

Plymouth Rotary Names Police Officer and Firefighter of the year

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the numerous instances of heroism that followed, the public is now acutely aware of the contributions that public safety employees make to their communities. The Plymouth Rotary has chosen to recognize our local heroes by annually naming the "Firefighter" and "Police Officer of the Year". This year, Captain Jim Haar of the Plymouth Community Fire Department was selected as "Firefighter of the Year" for his more than 22 years of professional service to the community. In nominating Captain Haar for the award, Fire Chief Larry Groth wrote, "The citizens of the Plymouth Community are very fortunate to have a fireman who is so committed to fire safety and fire prevention programs and who has gladly served in this capacity for most of his career." Captain Haar has been involved in the Safety Town and Juvenile Fire Setter Programs, among others.

Detective Cal Lauria was chosen as "Police Officer of the Year" for his distinguished service during the past 11 years. Detective Lauria has been assigned to the patrol division; has served on the Department's Honor Guard, as a Field Training Officer and as an Evidence Technician prior to being assigned to the Detective Bureau. In his introduction of Detective Lauria to the Plymouth Rotary, Lt. Bob Smith said that, "In his first year as a detective, he has been instrumental in the successful prosecution of several major investigations both in Plymouth Township and in other communities."

The awards were presented at a luncheon on November 16.



Fire Chief Larry Groth and "Firefighter of the Year", Captain Jim Haar.



(left to right) "Police Officer of the Year", Detective Cal Lauria, Lt. Bob Smith, Chief Tom Tiderington and Detective/Sergeant Steve Rapson.

Watershed Wisdom

Use your head, you live in a watershed!

Do you know what watershed you live in?

A watershed is the area that is drained by a river system or by a network of river systems. Here in Plymouth Township we live in the Rouge River watershed. Today, the watershed encompasses over 466 square miles, 48 communities and three (3) counties.

The Rouge River has been subject to many types of pollutants both from industry and the general public. The effort to protect the River is increasing and we have seen improvements in the health of our River. Public involvement is crucial for cleaning up our watershed so that the River may provide safe and healthy recreational activities for all families in the watershed now and in the future.

What can you do to help?

During the Winter months it may seem as though there is not much that can be done but there are several activities that can be undertaken that can help keep our River healthy:

- ? ? Reduce your use of household hazardous waste and dispose of those you do use properly by participating in Household Hazardous Waste Day on **May 18, 2002** or to a licensed hazardous waste facility. Clean up that pet waste! Pet waste can contain bacteria and other pollutants that find their way into the storm drains after a snowmelt or rainstorm. Try double wrapping your pet waste in a plastic bag and putting it into the garbage or simply flush down your toilet.
- ? ? Going someplace warm for the Winter? Remember to dispose of your Recreational Vehicle waste at a licensed disposal facility.

- ? ? Try using sand to keep your driveway ice-free this Winter. Always make sure your sidewalks and approaches are kept clear and dry for safety!
- ? ? Join a River Friendly Organization! The Johnson Creek Protection Group (JCPG) can be contacted at (734) 761-1010. Contact Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) at (313) 792-9900.
- ? ? Take a Winter walk in the Park! Plymouth Township Park offers barrier-free pathways that include interpretive signs with lots of watershed information.
- ? ? Visit the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan—Dearborn. The center has informative displays on the history of the river and information on current activities. Call (313) 593-5338 for hours and directions.
- ? ? Instead of investing a small fortune into store bought flowers and vegetables raised with pesticides and fertilizers this Spring, why not consider growing the plants from seed in your own home? By using inexpensive, recyclable florescent lights you can start plants from seed in your home this Winter, transplant them to your gardens this Spring and have beautiful, pesticide-free, river-friendly flowers and vegetables for you, your family and your neighbors come harvest time! Visit the library, your local bookstore, or try the internet.

For more information on any of the ideas presented, please call the Department of Public Services at 453-8131, ext. 33.

Plymouth Township is hosting a Frog and Toad Workshop on Saturday, February 16, 2002, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Contact Sally Petrella of Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9900 for details!

Check your water meter readings

It's 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 older style meter with 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 the amount of

water registered on this inside meter. **If the readings do not agree, contact Plymouth Township Water Billing at 453-8131, ext. 26.** 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. The new system can be installed free of charge with an appointment within a one-hour time block.

Important reminder about curbside trash pickup

There is a specific window of time in which trash should be placed at the curb for pickup by the solid waste contractor. According to ordinance, trash may be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before your collection day, but must be at the curb no later than 7:00 AM on the day of collection. Empty containers must be removed within 12 hours after collection by the contractor.

Winter survival on the road

No one drives during bad winter weather unless they must. However, business or holiday plans often make winter traveling necessary. The following tips on traveling in winter weather may make your trip safer.



1. Plan your trip carefully. Listen to weather reports and travelers' advisories and keep an alternate route in mind. Let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to arrive. Travel by daylight and use major highways if possible. Try not to travel alone.
2. Keep your gas tank as full as possible. Do this especially if you are unfamiliar with the route you are traveling or are entering open country and also to help prevent gas line freeze-up.
3. Don't overdress when driving. Even on short trips, your clothing should be loose-fitting and comfortable. Heavy clothing should be removed after the car has warmed up. Pull over to the side of the road instead of struggling out of heavy clothing while driving.



4. If you should get stranded on the road during a winter storm, keep calm. Give some indication you are in trouble—turn on your 4-way flashing lights, raise the hood, or tie a cloth from an antenna or door handle. Do not stop under an overpass. Stay in the car. Do not try to walk from the car unless you can see a shelter within a reasonable distance; disorientation comes quickly during a blowing snowstorm. For heat, turn on the car engine for brief periods. To avoid deadly carbon monoxide poisoning, always leave a downwind window open slightly. Also, make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow when the engine is running. Exercise from time to time by clapping your hands and moving your arms and legs. Do not stay in one position too long, but do not overexert yourself by shoveling or trying to push the car. Leave the dome light on at night as a signal to rescuers. If more than one person is in the car, sleep in shifts.
5. Other tips to keep in mind:
 - ?? Don't drive while tired.
 - ?? Always use your seatbelt and make sure everyone else does.
 - ?? Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area.
 - ?? All vehicle windows and mirrors should be clear before attempting to drive.

"Operation Identification" crime prevention program

Here's a great project for one of those days when the blowing snow and bitter cold temperatures makes you want to stay indoors. Take a complete inventory of all personal property in your home! Such an inventory can become invaluable if your home becomes the target of a burglary or you suffer loss due to fire or flooding. Making an inventory is easy. The important things are:

- ?? List the major items in every room of your house.
- ?? Take down the name of the manufacturer, brand and date of purchase.
- ?? Record the make, model and serial number of all electronic items.
- ?? Videotape or photograph your valuables and keep receipts of major purchases.
- ?? Store the videos, photos, and receipts in a safe place away from home—such as your office or in a safety deposit box, if you have one.
- ?? Make sure you update your inventory every few years.

Your homeowner's insurance company can probably provide you with an inventory form.



In addition to taking inventory of your possessions, why not mark the items to make them less desirable to burglars and easier to trace back to you? "Operation Identification" is an effective crime prevention program. To participate, all you have to do is engrave your Michigan Operator's License Number on your valuables (TV's, stereos, cameras, lawn mowers, power tools, sporting equipment, etc.). In the event of theft, let the Reporting Officer know that you have engraved the item. Your driver's license number on the engraved items can be traced to you by law enforcement agencies nationwide.

You can borrow an electric engraver from the Plymouth Township Police Department, Community Resources Officer. Call 354-3243 for more information. Inventory forms and warning decals can also be provided at no cost.

Supervisor's Corner:



Steve Mann

Happy Birthday Plymouth Township! On April 12, 1827 Governor Cass signed into law an enactment of the legislative council creating Plymouth Township. Our community was organized just two years after the first settlers arrived and William Starkweather built the first home.

When we move into a new house we each have hopes and dreams that the roots we are establishing will be long lasting and that the community we are moving into will become our hometown for years to come.

175 years ago settlers moved into this area with the same hopes and dreams that you and I have. To make a community, fill it with people, organize churches and clubs. To put down roots for our children and eventually their children.

Our Methodist Church was organized in 1826. Northville was a part of Plymouth until 1899 when it split away. The Village of Plymouth was

incorporated in 1867, 41 years after Plymouth Township. Our first phone company started with 65 subscribers in 1900. Our Rotary Club was formed in 1924.

The history of Plymouth Township is one of which we can all be proud. I encourage all of our neighbors to take advantage of our birthday year to visit the Plymouth Historical Museum and to learn as much about your hometown, Plymouth Township, as possible. Realize the hard work and dedication that our forefathers put into creating this community.

As we learn more about our history and realize the important role we played in developing southeastern Michigan we can each pause and reflect on what

we can do to leave a legacy for the next generation. A legacy that people will study on our 200th birthday in 2027.

Give me a call or e-mail me with your ideas and suggestions on how you would like to become a part of your community. Perhaps by serving on an existing Board or Commission. By creating a new Commission. By becoming a part of your hometown government. Your calls and thoughts are always welcomed.

I would like to hear from you. Have a happy birthday.

Steve

(734) 354-3201
smann@plymouthtp.org

Solid Waste Notes:

Curbside yard waste collection is seasonal

Should mother nature choose to give us an early Spring, please remember that there is no curbside **yard waste** collection during the Winter months of December, January, February and March. During this time you must keep/store any yard waste you generate on your property. **Curbside yard waste collection will resume on April 1, 2002.** This service gap is a result of a State rule requiring continued separation of compost from land fills during this very low volume time period.

Alternatives for your Winter yard waste

Here in Michigan there is always the possibility of having a warmer Winter, which may allow for earlier growth of grasses, shrubs and other perennials. Since you cannot put yard waste out for curbside collection during the Winter months, you could consider backyard compost-



ing. Compost has been coined as "black gold" by many gardeners over the past century and can do wonders for your lawn and gardens.

Yard waste is not the only ingredient in backyard compost.

Kitchen scraps can be added as well as eggshells, fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds, water from steaming your vegetables, etc. Absolutely NO meat products should be put in your compost pile. This will ensure your compost is free of foul odors.

There are many different ways of composting from using specially made containers that you purchase, to containers you create yourself, to just a pile or heap in a corner of your yard. For more information and ideas please call the **Solid Waste Department at 454-0530.**

Household Hazardous Waste Day Scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2002

For the past several years, Plymouth Township has offered a one-day household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event. This year it will take place on **Saturday, May 18, 2002** at the Department of Public Services building, located at 46555 Port Street. You will be required to present your driver's license as proof of residency. Items that will be accepted include car batteries, oil based and latex paint, pesticides, fertilizers, mercury debris, household batteries, propane tanks/cylinders, flammable liquids, aerosol, acids and bases. Look for more information in the Spring newsletter and on the Township's website www.plymouthtp.org. Please call the Solid Waste Department at 454-0530 with any questions or concerns.

Plymouth Township government meetings:

Meeting times are 7 p.m., unless otherwise shown.

January:

Tuesday, January 22: Board of Trustees

February:

Thursday, February 7: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, February 12: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, February 20: Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 26: Board of Trustees

March:

Thursday, March 7: Zoning Board of Appeals (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 12: Board of Trustees

Wednesday, March 20: Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 26: Board of Trustees

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

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Postal Carriers: Please deliver
to PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP
RESIDENCES ONLY.

Visit Plymouth Township government
on the Internet at plymouthtwp.org

Cable companies set rates

Occasionally the Township hears from residents who are concerned about increases in the cable rates charged by their chosen cable company. Plymouth Township does not regulate the rates set by the individual cable service providers. As consumers, residents who are not satisfied with their current provider have the opportunity to choose another provider. The Board of Trustees sought to have local competition between cable operators to ensure that the residents would have a choice. There are also additional choices such as satellite television. The two companies who currently have franchise agreements with Plymouth Township are Comcast and Wide Open West (formerly Americast). Their customer service contact numbers are listed here for your convenience.

Comcast 459-7300 Wide Open West 1-866-496-9669



Have you been to see the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra yet? There's still time this season! Billed as the "Hottest Ticket in Town!", the PSO has been serving the surrounding community for over 56 years. Call (734) 451-2112 or log on to www.plymouthsymphony.org for schedule and ticket information. (above photo taken by James W. Rawlinson of Rawlinson Photography)

Attention Home/Condo Owners' Associations:

Township Supervisor Steve Mann has announced that he will hold quarterly meetings with homeowner association presidents to keep them informed about what is happening in Plymouth Township. Supervisor Mann will also answer questions and field suggestions at these meetings. The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime in March.

Do we have current information to contact you? If you are newly elected as President of your board or did not receive a letter from the Supervisor's Office in December, please contact the Supervisor's Administrative Aide, Ann DeGhetto at 354-3203 or e-mail adeghetto@plymouthtwp.org, to assist us in updating our list. Thank you!