

The Business Page



September 2004

Important Phone Numbers:

General Township Government
453-3840

Steve Mann, Supervisor
354-3201

Marilyn Massengill, Clerk
354-3224

Ron Edwards, Treasurer
354-3214

Trustees:
Kay Arnold
455-2683

Charles Curmi
455-9658

Dan Herriman
459-5396

Abe Munfakh
459-7547

Police, Fire, EMS Emergencies 911
Police non-emergency
453-3869

Building Dept.
354-3208

Public Services
453-8131

Township earns solid financial status

Officials are receiving positive news from several sources regarding the financial status of the Township.

Township receives financial award

At the June 8, 2004 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Plymouth Township was recognized for excellence in financial reporting for the publication of its annual comprehensive financial report. Jeff Pardee presented an award on behalf of the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association (MMFOA), and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to the Township. He also presented a "Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting" to Treasurer Ron Edwards. While the award was established well over 50 years ago, this is the first time the Township has qualified for and received the award. Only seven of Michigan's 1242 Townships received the award this year.

Plymouth Township officials have worked hard to develop a comprehensive annual financial statement. The format and content of the document goes well beyond the



Supervisor Steve Mann, Clerk Marilyn Massengill, and Treasurer Ron Edwards accepted the "Excellence in Financial Reporting" award on behalf of Plymouth Township.

minimum reporting requirements to provide a snapshot of the entire community, not just the financial picture.

Annual audit shows healthy budget

Auditors from the firm of Plante & Moran assured the Board of Trustees at their

(see **financial status** page 2)

Water/Sewer rates to remain steady

Even though the rates for water and sewer usage charged to the Township by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department have risen slightly, the Board of Trustees plans to hold steady on the rates charged to Township customers for this year. The Township actually lowered rates last year 2.3%. This means that residents and businesses are enjoying rates that are lower than those charged in 2002.

Another project that Township officials hope will keep water bills stable is the construction of a second water tower near

Five Mile and Beck Roads, planned for early next year. This would enable the Township to buy water to fill the tower during off-peak hours at a lower rate and allow residents to draw from the tower during peak-use hours. A second tower would help to increase water pressure in the area, assist in fire suppression, and allow for future development.

The cost of adding the 400,000 gallon tower is estimated to be \$1.3 million, which

(see **water/sewer rates** page 4)

Progress Report: Police/Fire/Township Hall

The need for new Police, Fire, and Town Hall facilities, has been recognized for well over a decade. During the past year, Township officials have been taking the necessary steps to move the project along and hope to break ground later this year.

The architectural firm of A3C has been selected to design the new Police/Fire/Township Hall facility to be built on the 9.5 acre site on Haggerty just north of Ann Arbor Road. Architects have been meeting with Township officials and Department Heads over the past few weeks to go over design plans and address specific needs.

In July, the Board of Trustees accepted a bid from Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. to sell \$6 million in municipal bonds to finance half of the projected \$12 million cost of the project. The remaining funds will come from current general fund cash on hand and the sale of the current Township office buildings.

The next step will be to accept bids for construction of the facility. It's possible that the foundation could be laid before the ground freezes this winter. The project is expected to be completed by 2006. The drawing below shows the preliminary Town Hall elevation.



The above drawing depicts the preliminary elevation plan for the new Town Hall Project.

Financial status (continued from page 1)

meeting of July 13, 2004 that their audit of financial records for fiscal year 2003 showed the Township to have healthy accounting practices. Accountants for the firm remarked that the Township's financial status was better than that of surrounding areas.

Township gets great bond rating

A bond rating of "AA" has been given to Plymouth Township's capital improvement bonds by Standard

and Poor's Rating Services. The rating was issued in conjunction with the sale of bonds to fund the new Police/Fire/Township Hall project.

In late July, the Board of Trustees voted to accept the bid from Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. to sell \$6 million in municipal bonds to finance half of the projected \$12 million cost of the new facility. See related article above regarding progress on the new Police/Fire Township Hall.

The Rouge River Minute: Maintaining Paved Areas

Impervious surfaces (paved roads, parking lots, sidewalks, patios, building roofs, etc.) account for more than 25% of the land area in Plymouth Township.

Trash, road salts, vehicle fluids and other pollutants left on paved surfaces eventually wash into storm sewers, detention basins, streams and rivers.

These pollutants can negatively impact water quality and affect fish, wildlife and the recreational use of our waterways.

How can you help keep our waterways clean and healthy?

- Routinely clean up debris in outside areas. Pay special attention to parking lots, loading docks, waste storage areas, drain inlets, and the area around stock piles.
- If possible, clean outside areas when heavy rain falls are forecasted.
- Clean up spills immediately. Try designating consistent parking spots for each vehicle so that if a leak is indicated on the ground, the vehicle can be easily identified for repair.



- Immediately contact the Plymouth Township Fire Department (911) if a spill of a hazardous material occurs.

- Try sweeping up debris rather than washing the paved areas. Washing can cause debris, vehicle

fluids, and other pollutants to be carried into drainage systems with wash water.

- If you must wash a paved area, remove as much residue and debris as possible before applying water. Screen storm drain inlets with filter fabric to catch soil and other particles.
- Avoid the use of acids and other harsh cleaners.
- Consider storm drain marking to identify the storm drains on your property. This will let employees know that dumping wastes down these drains isn't appropriate.

Contact the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services at 453-8131, ext. 33 for more information.

REMEMBER: It is illegal to dump unused products on the pavement or down a storm drain!

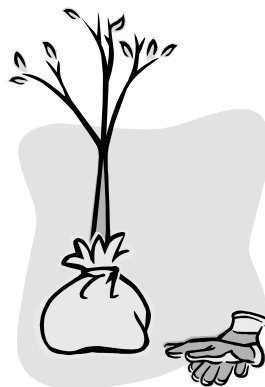
DDA update: streetscape construction to continue

The ongoing construction of the Ann Arbor Road streetscape project will continue next spring, according to Supervisor Steve Mann who chairs the Downtown Development Authority.

A total of \$1.3 million is going into the next phase of the project to beautify the Ann Arbor Road corridor. Federal grant funding in the amount of \$439,000, a State grant of \$160,000, along with \$712,000 which the DDA will be financing (to be paid with money the DDA captures from tax revenue within the district), will be used to continue building the streetscape.

Plans have not been finalized, however, the State of Michigan has received bids for the

project and is currently in the review process prior to awarding the bid. Some field work and studies may be done this fall, once the bid for construction has been awarded. This work will be in preparation for the remainder to take place next spring.



The project plans include installation of the brick columns, decorative fencing, and the concrete verge, along with landscaping, and the planting of street trees and flowers. "It is important to note that the preliminary work this fall will not cause the affected area to be left torn up over the winter months" stated Supervisor Mann. "We look forward to seeing these improvements to our main commercial corridor and the entrance to our great community."

Community Policing Program: A message from the Plymouth Township Police Department

To the Business Owners of Plymouth Township:

The Plymouth Township Police Department wants to provide all of you with some helpful information to assist us in preventing crime. National statistics show that the chances of catching a criminal after a crime has been committed, or for a Police Officer to be in the area as a crime is being committed, are low. The greatest way to prevent crime is to create an environment where the opportunity to commit a crime is drastically reduced. The Police Department would like to suggest some ideas to help you spot people or conditions that are suspicious.

As business owners, every day you see people go about their business and shop in your stores. They all exhibit certain characteristics. These people could be described as "THE PROFILE OF THE NORMAL CUSTOMER". The customer drives, rides, or walks to your business and then comes into your store to engage in business with you. When they are done with their business, they either go into another store or leave. Maybe they meet up with a friend in the parking lot and talk. While in the lot, they are talking and certainly not watching customers going to and from your store.

Legitimate customers do not hang around a business. If you observe a lone subject or a group of subjects standing around and not engaging in the usual

customer profile, these people are suspicious. If an individual or a group of people draw attention to themselves, it is because you realize these people are not acting in the normal way all of your other customers are.



When you notice this, it is time to call the Police Department and report a suspicious person or persons.

Remember to stay on the line and tell the Police Dispatcher if the subject(s) move. This way, the Dispatcher will be able to direct the Officer in the patrol car to the subject(s). Please do not hesitate to call the Police Department when your instincts tell you someone or something is out of "THE PROFILE OF THE NORMAL CUSTOMER".

Remember, no police force has enough personnel to be in every area of the Township, all of the time, to prevent crime. The citizens of the Township are our eyes and ears. You know your business and customers better than anybody else does because you are there day after day. You know when something is suspicious or not right and that is when we would like you to call the department. When you call **(734) 354-3250**, you will be connected directly with a Plymouth Township Police Department Dispatcher.

Plymouth Township is on the web at www.plymouthtwp.org

Water/Sewer rates (continued from page 1)

Water and Sewer Rate	
Community	Cost per 1000 Gallons
City of Livonia	\$ 4.52
Plymouth Township	\$ 4.86
Canton Township	\$ 5.41
Northville Township	\$ 6.51
City of Northville	\$ 8.10
City of Plymouth	\$ 8.94

would be paid from the Water Department fund. The Township's first water tower is located in the Lake Pointe subdivision at Wilcox and Schoolcraft Roads. The table at left reflects the current cost per 1000 gallons of water in Plymouth Township and surrounding communities.

