

# THE PROFILE

\*PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 2

PHONE 364-8466

APRIL 2002

## Looking Forward to Spring?

Come and learn about the many opportunities to get outdoors! If you live by or use the Rogue River and its tributaries please come and participate in an interesting workshop. The Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council will be presenting a workshop that will describe conservation options for landowners, the adopt-a-stream program, and many other things that people can do to help protect the river. The dates and locations of this workshop are:

- Sunday, April 14, 2:30-4:00 PM at the VFW Hall in Algoma Township, 4195 13 Mile Rd.
- Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Sparta High School
- Monday, April 22, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Rockford North Middle School

Receive a free tote bag with lots of goodies! If you have questions please contact Nichol Stout at (616) 895-3092.



ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED

In 1968, Plainfield Township and other communities signed an agreement with Kent County Department of Public Works (KCDPW) to construct and operate a municipal sewage collection system. Shortly thereafter, the KCDPW signed an agreement with the City of Grand Rapids whereby the City would accept the sewage, transport it and treat it. That agreement expires in 2008. For nearly 35 years, Plainfield Township and its partner communities have been paying the KCDPW for the construction, operation, and maintenance of our wastewater collection system as well as the cost of sewage transport and treatment by the City of Grand Rapids.

Plainfield Township and its partner communities (the City of Rockford and Alpine, Cannon, and Courtland townships) are working together as the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA). The NKSA has been attempting to find a fair and acceptable resolution to its dispute with the City of Grand Rapids over a long-term agreement for the disposal of sewage. In 1997, recognizing that its contracts with the NKSA communities and several other municipalities would expire within the next several years, the City of Grand Rapids encouraged those communities to negotiate with the City for a new – and radically different – agreement. Although the NKSA communities were aware of those negotiations, they neither accepted nor signed the resulting agreement. The NKSA analyzed the proposed agreement and projected the future costs. The proposed new method of calculating Grand Rapids’ charges to us substantially shifts the financial burden of its wastewater treatment facilities from the City of Grand Rapids to its customer communities. Grand Rapids feels that this is fair and defensible. The NKSA feels that the formulas used to determine the charges are unfair, unsound, and in violation of federal and state regulations. Why did

the other communities sign such an agreement?

Kentwood, Grand Rapids Township, Cascade Township, and Walker are “captive customers,” because they cannot feasibly build their own treatment plants. They are integral parts of the Grand Rapids sewer system. Residents receive their sewer bills directly from Grand Rapids. They are retail customers. Several years ago, Tallmadge Township signed an agreement with

Grand Rapids for sewage treatment that included a requirement that Tallmadge pay to the Grand Rapids 25% of any additional property tax revenue they received from new development in areas served by their utilities. The “captive” communities were afraid that Grand Rapids would impose on them a Tallmadge-type agreement, or worse, when their contracts expired. Most of the contracts were set to expire between 1997 and 2012, so they negotiated and signed new agree-

ments that seemed less severe than they might have been.

The communities that signed the new agreement may not have fully understood its financial impact at the time they completed their negotiations. That impact became more clear when the new charges were billed. There was no real alternative. The NKSA communities are fortunate to have another option — we can build our own clean water plant between Coit Avenue and the Grand River about three-quarters of a mile north of Woodward Street. We have carefully researched and studied this option. Although building such a facility is a huge financial undertaking, the impact on the neighboring properties is one of our biggest concerns. The Plainfield Township Board and their NKSA partners must ensure that the appearance and the odor-causing potential of the plant are addressed. Borrowing successful designs and

## What’s Happening With SEWERS In Plainfield Township?

### CHAPTER 6

By Robert Homan,  
Township Manager

proven technologies will ensure containment of the unpleasant odors associated with the treatment processes and will assure compatibility with the neighborhood.

The Plainfield Township Board promised they would hold a public meeting to discuss this issue, should our attempts to negotiate an acceptable agreement with Grand Rapids fail. The NKSA has made every effort to get Grand Rapids to the table to negotiate substantive changes to their standard agreement. We sued the City in federal court, and a final decision on our objections to the agreement will be made soon. If we do not prevail, we see no realistic hope that Grand Rapids will agree to something else.

**W**hy is the Grand Rapids agreement so bad? It will cost our sewer customers a lot more money than they are paying now – more, in the long run, than it would cost them if the NKSA built and operated its own clean water plant. Our engineering consultant analyzed the methods Grand Rapids would be using to calculate our charges, and an independent consultant confirmed the findings about two years ago. Since then, the actual charges to the participating communities confirm even higher costs than we originally projected.

The new agreement also imposes severe penalties on new sewer customers whose property is developed at a lower density than a typical residential subdivision (about three or four homes per acre). For example, a person who chooses to build a home on a two-acre parcel would be required to pay an additional connection charge many times higher than a person who built the exact same house on a small lot. The charge for a two-acre parcel might be \$10,000 compared to a \$2,500 charge for the same house on the smaller lot.

Under the *current* agreement with Grand Rapids, the charges for receiving and treating all of our customers' sewage are based entirely on gallons of sewage generated. Under the Grand Rapids' *proposed* agreement, 20% of the

charges would be based on the total land area in the Township's sewer service district. This favors Grand Rapids and communities like East Grand Rapids, where most of their buildings are squeezed into small parcels. Grand Rapids has stated that this method of charging for sewer service will help to discourage "urban sprawl" – the wasteful using up of farmland and forests for a relatively small number of homes. We think that it will tend to do the opposite – encourage people to build outside the sewer service area and to construct on-site sewage disposal ("septic") systems on larger lots. Regardless of Grand Rapids' intent on using this device to control urban sprawl, the Plainfield Township Board is the elected body of officials that should make these choices about how our community is developed.

Another subject of disagreement is that Grand Rapids' new agreement requires that the participating communities pay *annually* into a special fund \$2 per resident (about \$60,000 for Plainfield Township alone). This amount would escalate at the rate of inflation and would be used to fund area-wide projects that are deemed to benefit the entire metropolitan area. We object to this because (1) it is a condition to an agreement for sewage treatment that has nothing to do with sewage treatment, and (2) our attorney advises us that this appears to be an illegal use of the Township's public funds. It is touted as local government cooperation, but it is really a strong-arm method of extracting Plainfield Township funds for purposes the Township Board and the citizens they represent may not necessarily control or favor.

The Township Board is elected to deliberate and decide difficult community issues. They must consider the needs of the entire community – over 30,000 people. In this matter, the interests of nearly 70,000 residents of the North Kent Sewer Authority communities are at stake.

Plainfield Township will hold a public meeting at Township Hall (6161 Belmont Avenue NE) on Monday, May 13, at 7:00 PM to discuss this important issue.

# PARKS AND RECREATION

## VERSLUIS PARK

The beach at Versluis Park will open on May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday before Memorial Day, and will remain open through Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Park hours are 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with the beach open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Versluis Park offers many amenities for family fun including the sandy beach and swim area, play equipment for the kids, grills and picnic tables, trails, sand volleyball, horse shoes, the fishing pier and boardwalk. Play equipment and the beach are handicap accessible. The picnic facilities at Versluis Park are available on a first come, first served basis for park patrons.

Versluis Lake is restricted to non-motorized boats. Permitted watercraft include canoes, kayaks, non-motorized fishing boats, wind surfers, and small sailboats. Please be aware that boat trailers are not allowed in the park, due to the limitations of parking.

If you are new to Versluis Park, it may be helpful to know a few of the park rules before your first visit.

- Food is not allowed on the beach - only in the picnic areas. This helps keep the geese out of the swimming area.
- No alcohol
- No glass
- No rafts or floatation toys - only Coast Guard approved life jackets
- Children 10 and under must be accompanied on the beach at all times by an adult.

Plainfield Township residents can purchase a Season Pass to Versluis Park for \$15.00 **at the park only.**

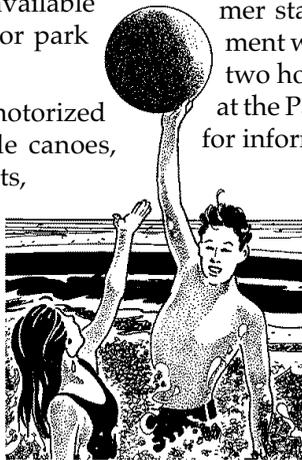
## SWIM SAFE PROGRAM

This program is being offered to increase adult/parent water safety awareness for those with backyard pools, or when spending a day at the neighborhood pool or beach. The class will be held April 22, at the Community Cen-

ter, 5255 Grand River Drive, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Call Cathy at the Parks & Recreation Office at 364-1197 to register. The cost of the class is \$3.00 and class size is limited to 20 adults. This particular class will be repeated throughout the year. Please call to have your name put on a contact list for future classes.

## FISHING AT THE PARK

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will conduct a fishing instructional program at Versluis Park. This one day class will be repeated weekly throughout the summer starting in June. All necessary equipment will be provided. The class lasts about two hours and space is limited. Call Cathy at the Parks and Recreation office at 364-1197 for information and registration, in June.



## D.W. RICHARDSON PARK

for Warm Weather Fun

D.W. Richardson Park, located at 5255 Grand River Drive, has three baseball diamonds, shuffleboard and basketball courts, and play equipment. The Township's Community Center is located there and is available to rent for private parties by calling the Township Hall at 364-8466. The park pavilion may be rented as well by calling the Township Hall. Alcohol and pets are prohibited in the park.

## AMBROSE PARK

Located at 4060 Ambrose Drive, off of Woodworth, behind Meijers, Ambrose Park amenities include play equipment, swings, a small shelter, grills, an open grass field and boardwalk along the pond for duck feeding.

## GOLD DUST PARK

The park is located at 2952 Gold Dust Drive in the northeast section of Plainfield Township, off Packer Drive. New play equipment has been installed to complement the swings, spring riders and 1/5 mile running track.

## Staff Working to Inform and Educate

**B**oard of Review has come and gone for another year. The majority of the taxpayers looking for information just needed an explanation of how the “system” works. There were also concerns about the leadership change at the state level and the effect it might have on Proposal A. Assessments saw an average increase in residential properties of 6%. Taxable value could not increase more than 3.2% unless there was new construction or discovered new items that were not previously on the assessment record. We also saw new homeowners with concerns about the “uncapping” of their taxable value. Unfortunately, they were not informed that the taxes paid by the previous owner would not be the taxes they will pay on their newly purchased home.

My staff is doing all that they can to inform and educate people when they visit our depart-

ment. We would like to extend an invitation to visit our office and review the information that we have on your home. Remember, to qualify for the Homestead Exemption of the school operating millage, you must have owned and occupied the residence and filed an affidavit with our office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, it is mandatory to file a Property Transfer Affidavit when you purchase a property in the state of Michigan. You may also call the PAL-line to review your property at 364-1196. We are hoping to have this information available on the Township website in the near future.

We will be reappraising neighborhoods again this summer. Our employees wear picture ID and usually are driving a township vehicle. If you have any concerns please call the office at 364-8466.

*Judy LaFave, Assessor*

## YMCA Receives Site Plan Approval

**T**he YMCA organization recently received site plan approval from the Township Planning Commission for the go-ahead to construct a 60,000 square foot facility on property located along Jupiter Avenue near Post Road. According to a YMCA representa-

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tive, the organization intends to “break ground” early this summer. The Township is very excited about this project as it will be a great complement to the Belmont Towne Center concept.

## Commodity Distribution Dates

Commodities will be distributed to qualified low-income persons on the following dates:

**May 23, 2002**

**August 29, 2002**

Distribution takes place at 6156 Belmont Avenue, between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm. New families wishing to qualify for food may call Jim or Peg Granzotto at 784-5249, or come to our distribution site on the above dates.





## FREE TREES OR BUSHES

**I**n an effort to encourage reforestation of the land within Plainfield Township's boundaries, 350 free trees or bushes will be given to residents who call to place an order. The bushes are assorted varieties and the trees are Colorado Blue Spruce. Both are 12-18" tall in one gallon pots with 3-6 years growth.

Trees or bushes **MUST** be preordered by calling 364-8466 beginning at 9:00am on April 16, 2002 until all plants are reserved which usually takes less than 2 hours!! **NO FAX ORDERS OR WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** The random use of six telephone lines has proven to be a fair way for everyone to have a chance to get bushes or trees. Only **ONE** order per address per call. Two bushes or trees will be given to each order. The bushes or trees will be available for pickup on Friday, April 26th between 2:00pm and 5:00pm, **ONLY**, from the township offices, 6161 Belmont Ave, Belmont. Bushes or trees, which are not picked up, will be used in township projects.

Participants will not have a choice of the species of the bushes. All the plants are "park stock" from a reputable nursery in the area.

The Officers and Trustees of the township encourage interested residents to participate in this program, which is in its thirteenth year.

*Susan L. Morrow, MMC*  
*Plainfield Charter Township Clerk* 6

## The Hyser House is Celebrating Its 150th birthday!

**H**ere is the museum's calendar of events. The Museum is open Sundays, June through September, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 23 **Kid's Craft Day**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. featuring metal punch crafts, and mobiles. Please RSVP at 784-7062 or 784-6783.

June 30 **The Big Birthday Celebration**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Come join the festivities. Join special guests Wendell and Donna Briggs, and meet local officials and historical committee members, some in 1800's period dress. Enjoy birthday cake and ice cream. Surprises in store!

July 7 **Civil War Demonstration**, 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the Bruce Butgeret Civil War Re-Enactment Group.

July 14 **Tom Chubinski, Railroad Historian and Storyteller**, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

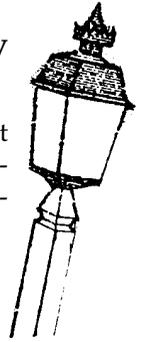
July 21 **The Silver Tone Singers**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

July 28 **Pioneer Crafts – Lost Arts**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Join a farrier, see rug hooking, chair caning, butter churning, a basket weaver, and others demonstrating their crafts. Some items will be offered for sale and class information will be available.

Sept. 15 **Kid's Old Fashioned Crafts & Games**. Please RSVP at 784-7062 or 784-6783.

## The Plainfield and Comstock Park branches of the Kent District Library have planned many exciting events both for adults and children.

Adults: enter the "Put Your Pet in Pictures Photo Contest." Take a picture of your pet with library materials, and it could be featured in our 2003 Kent District Library Calendar. Contest rules and registration forms are at any KDL branch. Winners will be announced in June; calendars go on sale this fall.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### PLAINFIELD BRANCH

The Friends of the Plainfield Library maintain ongoing **used books/magazine sales** in the Book Nook. All gently used books and current magazine donations are accepted and a donation form will be provided upon request.

**Meet Author Gary Eberle**, who will read from his latest fiction collection, *A City Full of Rain*, at the Plainfield Library on Thursday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m. following a catered luncheon (\$6.50 for members, \$8.50 for non-members; registration required, limited to 50). Mr. Eberle is the author of *Haunted Houses of Grand Rapids*. His novel *Angel Strings* was praised by the *New York Times* Book Review and other periodicals.

**Lighthouse of the Great Lakes** will be presented by Walter and "Mike" Eavy on Thursday, May 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Library. The husband and wife team will tell about the two summers they worked as keepers of the Big Sable Lighthouse near Ludington.

Any teen interested in serving on a **Teen Advisory Board** should contact Susan at 647-3930. Speaking of teens, once again we'll be looking for teen volunteers to help out at the library this summer. Interested kids can pick up an application at the library after May 1.

**The Summer Reading Club** begins June 10, with lots of fun programs for everyone in the family: puppet shows, Dr. Zap, a teen theater workshop, Wildlife Safari, a pet show, story time, and more! Pick up a schedule after mid-May.

### PLAINFIELD LIBRARY HOURS

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH

Have you ever considered a **gift of books or other materials to the library in memory of a loved one**—instead of giving flowers? We have a special bookplate we put inside the chosen books, and will send a card to the funeral home informing them of your gift. For more information on our Memorial Gift program, please call the library.

Spring means home improvement time! **Check out our great selection of books to help you spruce up your house and yard.** For vacations, stock up on Books on Tape and CD for those long family drives, as well as music to keep everybody in a good mood. For the little ones, we have beginner books that come with cassettes. Our paperback collection has lots of great beach reads, and you can also pick up a pile of magazines for your weekend getaways. In May, join us for "Lighthouses of the Great Lakes" (see description at left).

Bring the children to the Comstock Park branch on Monday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. for **Millions of Cats**, a program based on Wanda Gag's classic. Kids can enjoy lots of cat crafts. Remember: June 10 marks the Summer Reading Club kick-off. We could use some young adult help, so pick up your application starting May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mandatory orientations are Monday, June 3 at 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m.

### COMSTOCK PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday: 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday: 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## WHITE PINE TRAIL UPDATE SPRING 2002

**M**ore pavement is in store for the trail this season! The Department of Natural Resources has told the Friends of the White Pine Trail and local governments that the trail will be paved from the West River Bridge to Fifth-Third Park by the end of August. This will extend the trail to the south by 2 + miles and will bring the total length of paved trail to 12 miles. The exact route of the trail from the Ballpark south to Comstock Park is being defined to ensure the safest, most cost-efficient, and user-friendly route. Some of that pavement may be completed this season as well.

To the north, the trail bypass around the Wolverine Plant in Rockford is slated for completion this year. This long awaited segment will make it unnecessary to take the short detour along Main Street in Rockford and will afford a scenic path along the Rogue River.

The DNR will apply this fall for \$63,200 in grant funds to do the pre-paving engineering work for the trail from Russell Road to Sand Lake. The Friends of the White Pine Trail are working with the DNR to secure matching funds for a previously approved grant for paving. For information on how you can contribute to this match, please call the "Friends" at the number listed below. We all hope the paving of this 7 + mile section can be completed in 2003.

You may join the Friends of the White Pine Trail on their Tuesday night trail rides this season. The bicycle rides are social in nature and leave

Rogue River Park in Belmont each Tuesday at 6 PM (weather permitting).

For those new to the trail the best access areas in addition to Rogue River Park on Belmont Avenue are:

- The City of Rockford parking area on the west side of Main Street just north of 10 Mile Road
- The lot adjacent to the trail at 12 Mile Road
- The Russell Road access site adjacent to the trail which can be reached by taking Northland Drive north 4 miles from Rockford and going west on Russell Road to the trail.

The Friends of the White Pine Trail are a volunteer group working with local communities and the DNR to develop the Trail. To learn about membership, how you can help, or trail activities call 616-866-8464 or attend the monthly meetings.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

(Please note, all meetings start at 7 PM)

- May 8: Comstock Park Library on West River Drive
- June 13: Plainfield Township Hall, 6161 Belmont Avenue NW
- July 10: Rockford Community Cabin, 2 blocks north of the Rockford City Hall on Monroe.

# Volunteers Patrol the White Pine Trail

The Volunteer Courtesy Patrol will be patrolling the White Pine Trail again this year. Volunteers will be wearing vests identifying them as Trail Patrol. If you need any assistance while on the trail, don't hesitate to call upon them. Volunteers' duties will include providing assistance to citizens on the bike path who either need Police or Medical response. The volunteers may also have to assist Police in reporting crimes that have occurred in their presence on the trails. Participants are unarmed civilian volunteers with no arrest powers. Supervision is received and maintained by the Kent County Sheriff's Department. If you are

interested in this volunteer program, please call Deputy Marnie Mills or Deputy Jay Wayman at (616) 336-3118.

## A reminder to dog owners

It is a state law that dogs must be on a leash. Also, as a common courtesy to others, please clean up after your dog.

Have a safe & enjoyable summer!

Community Policing  
Kent County Sheriff Department  
(616) 336-3118  
compolice@kentcounty.org

# Downtown Comstock Park Streetscape And West River Drive Improvements

It's finally going to happen! The long awaited streetscape improvements project on West River Drive through downtown Comstock Park [4 Mile to Lamoreaux] is being bid in conjunction with some major road improvements and bridge widening by the Kent County Road Commission. The bids will be opened on May 9, and construction may begin in June. Projected completion is by Labor Day – subject to weather and Murphy's Law.

Yes, it will be messy and frustrating for businesses, their patrons, nearby residents, and others who pass through the area. There is no way to avoid this unpleasantness if you must be in the area. If you can avoid it by finding a workable route around this bottleneck, you should. Remember, you can get through, and you can patronize the local businesses. Just don't be in a hurry, because things will be slow.

COINCIDENTALLY, Lamoreaux Drive from West River all the way to Alpine Avenue is scheduled for a major resurfacing this year. This project will probably follow the Comstock Park down-

town improvements, so really serious bottlenecks may be avoided. The projected start and completion of this project will be between late August and early October. Traffic in both directions will be maintained, but it will be restricted. Abutting neighborhood residents and visitors should plan around this and seek alternate routes if possible.

The saying goes, "You have to break an egg to make an omelet." This is another way of saying that it is messy to tear up roadways and sidewalks, but the end result is [hopefully] worth the pain and the suffering. There will be dust, noise, unforeseen problems, and delays. Please bear with it as best you can, and consider the positive and beneficial results when all is said and done.

The public's money is being spent to do this. It took a great deal of time and effort by public employees, volunteers, and engineering consultants to put all this together. We appreciate their efforts and look forward to the fruits of their labor.



# New Law Regarding Sewer Backups

Last year, the Michigan Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Public Act 222, which addresses the issue of sewer backups, damages that may occur as a result of sewer backups, who is responsible for paying for damages, and what procedures should be used.

The Kent County Department of Public Works (KCDPW) is responsible for operating and maintaining the public sewer system in Plainfield Township. Plainfield Township issues permits for new sewer connections and bills sewer customers quarterly. Plainfield Township pays the KCDPW monthly for its costs and charges relating to their maintenance and operation of the system. If problems arise or questions are generated concerning the operation of the system, the KCDPW should be contacted, and sewer backups and overflows (into basements or into the outdoors environment) should be reported immediately to them.

These backups or overflows are caused in a variety of ways; for example:

- A sewer pumping station's electricity is cut off and sewage backs up into the sewer lines behind the station.
- An underground sewer main cracks or breaks, and the ground around it collapses into the pipe and blocks the flow. The flow of sewage is dammed up and can back up into sewer lateral connections behind the blockage.
- Construction debris enters the system through open manholes, and creates blockages upstream.
- Very unusual and inappropriate items are discarded into the sewer system by way of flushing them down toilets; those items can hang up in the sewer and collect other debris around them to create blockages.
- Roots may intrude into private sewer laterals and the public system. These roots grow rapidly and extensively, because they like the

sewage, which acts as fertilizer and food for the roots. When roots take over, they catch other debris and block sewage flow.

Some of these causes can be reasonably and easily prevented; some cannot. Sewer pumping stations are regularly inspected and maintained. Sewer mains are inspected and videotaped from time to time. Many sewer manholes are bolted down so that storm water intrusion is prevented and vandals can't dump things into them. Homeowners should use common sense and care with what they flush down their toilets. Restaurants should use and clean their grease traps regularly. Contractors and plumbers should build their sewer lines correctly to avoid future failure.

Sometimes, things happen that cannot be prevented. Sometimes, things happen when things can be prevented. Homeowners and business people do experience sewer backups to their property. They should be aware that procedures have been developed for them to use. The following message has been suggested by the KCDPW for Plainfield Township to place in its newsletter and on its water/sewer bills. You will see it soon, if you are a Plainfield Township water or sewer customer. Here it is:

*"If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system, **contact the Department of Public Works at 616-336-3694 or the Sheriff's Department at 616-336-3111 immediately!** You must file a written claim with Kent County Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages. Notice should be mailed to Norm VanDeRoer at Kent County Department of Public Works, 1500 Scribner Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504; phone: 616-336-3694."*

If you have any questions about this, please contact Mr. VanDeRoer or other officials at the Kent County Department of Public Works: 336-3694.

# The Cards are In the Mail!

**A**s a result of the 2000 census and state redistricting, all Plainfield Township registered voters will receive new voter registration cards showing precinct locations for municipal and school elections. The new cards, showing these changes, will be mailed in mid-April. When your new card arrives, sign it, and discard your old one. Please keep your new card

If you have any questions about your new card or precinct, or have not received your new card by May 15, please call the Clerk's office at 364-8466. We would appreciate the chance to correct any error prior to an election day. Thank you.

*Susan Morrow, Clerk*

handy for the 2002 elections.

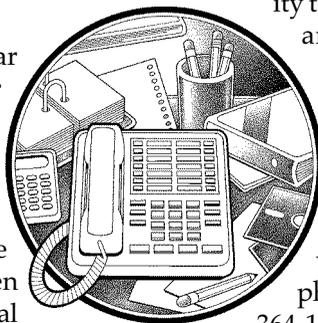
- Our congressional district number, which did not change, is 3.
- New state senatorial district number is 28.
- Our state representative district boundaries have changed, but the number is still 73.
- New county commission district number is 1.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

### Tax Information

**Recap of 2001 collections....** This year we collected nearly 95% of taxes prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The collections were down a little from prior years, perhaps due to the economic climate. Thank you for remitting payments in a timely fashion. The Treasurer's office processed over 22,000 tax bills between the summer and winter cycles. Personal Property (a type business tax and personal property at mobile home pads) had a delinquency rate of less than 11%. If you compare this to last year, it increased approximately 6%.

**Pay your taxes easier.....** The use of automatic debit payment has been available for several years and is working very nicely. If you haven't used this and would be interested, please call 364-1188 x. 114 for further information. The plan will require you to sign an approval form. You will be able pay your taxes automatically from your bank to the Township. No stamps! No late penalty fees! No lost mail!



**Dial in and get your information....** By September 2002 our Infoline data base will be updated daily. Infoline gives you the ability to dial in on a telephone from anywhere to find out how much your taxes are and when you paid them. This should assist you when filling out your tax forms at year-end. This information is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day! The phone number is 364-1196 or 364-1198. There will be more on this in a subsequent issue of the PROFILE.

**Your taxes paid from a mortgage escrow account...** For various reasons, a number of taxpayers are refinancing or restructuring their mortgage. If this event occurs after May (for the summer tax bill) or November (for the winter tax bill) the tax bill may indicate the prior mortgage company. If that is the case, you must send a copy of the tax bill to the correct mortgage company because we sent the tax bill to the mortgage company on record at the time of preparation of the tax bill.

*Jim Stover, Treasurer*

## TOWNSHIP/ OFFICERS

### TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 364-8466

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

David Groenleer, Supervisor

Susan Morrow, Clerk

James Stover, Treasurer

Wendell Briggs, Trustee

Robert Heindrichs, Trustee

William Parris, Trustee

Charles Weldon, Trustee

### MANAGER

Robert Homan

### TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

7:30 P.M.

First and Third Mondays

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

## Friends Are Sought

The Friends of the Plainfield Library are continuing to recruit new members for their group. For a nominal yearly fee, Friends receive firsthand news of all upcoming programs and library expenditures. The monthly newsletter states current and future events and gives a synopsis of discussion at the monthly Friends meetings. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Historical Room. All patrons of the Library are invited to attend these open meetings. Membership pamphlets are available at the Library, or call our new phone number, (616) 647-3930, for further details, and a pamphlet will be sent to you. New members are currently needed to keep the group going. With new members, new fundraising suggestions, new programs for children, teens and adults, we can continue to support our library with current materials and furnishings. For that nominal yearly fee, you could gain new friends, new programs, and a vote in how raised funds are spent. With the current recession, this is a great bargain for families, singles, teens, and seniors.

## THE PROFILE

Plainfield Charter Township  
6161 Belmont NE  
Belmont, MI 49306

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1