



# The Profile

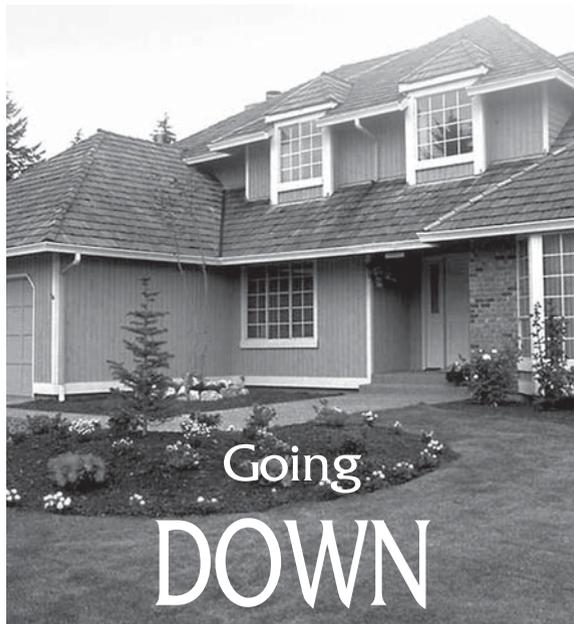
VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 2

APRIL 2011

**N**ot since the Great Depression has the total value of property in Plainfield Township decreased from one year to the next. That happened in 2010, and we have recently learned that it has decreased again in 2011. Over the past two years, property values have decreased by about 50 million dollars. The loss in **property tax revenues** from Plainfield Township to ALL of the taxing districts in Kent County, including the State Education Fund was \$1,250,000. Property tax revenue from *all* of Kent County declined by \$6,250,000. What reduction in services to the citizens of Kent County does this represent? Plainfield Township lost \$165,000. Where Plainfield Township had *always* experienced increases in the property tax base, now there are decreases. Growth and development have slowed to a trickle, and that has rippled throughout our economy.

For the past two years, employees and elected

officials of Plainfield Township received no increases in their rates of pay. Employees are paying for an increasing share of their health insurance premiums and the Township Board has terminated retiree health insurance for 18 non-union employees. Yet the employees of Plainfield Township continue to work diligently for the community, they have willingly taken on additional duties due to reductions in staff, and they strive to maintain excellent customer service.



The “squeeze” has been on since 2001. The money that the state legislature had allocated to Plainfield Township went down from \$688,000 each year to *zero*! If that figure had been maintained without any increases, it amounts to 1/10<sup>th</sup> of this year’s General Fund Budget (\$7,582,000). For ten straight years the economy of the State of Michigan has been under stress, plummeting and staying plummeted for the past three

*continued on page 2*

## GOING DOWN *continued from page 1*

years. **Everyone** has been affected. People are leaving for greener pastures to find employment. Governor Snyder and the Republican majority have the tough job of reorienting our state and making it competitive. They say that Michigan cannot afford to have “business as usual.” They say we all need to shift our paradigms, think outside the box, share the sacrifice, and understand that the time of reckoning has come. The band-aid fixes, accounting gimmicks, and reliance on stimulus money over the past eight years kicked the can down the road to where we are now, and the grindstone is right in front of us. It is time for the state government to put its house in order.

Plainfield Township faces its own problems, and they are not of our own making. Including Plainfield Township, the state has taken all discretionary revenue sharing away from 1,200 of 1,241 Michigan townships. The absence of growth is evidenced by the new census information that shows a meager 3% growth for the past decade after nearly 10% growth had been recorded for the period 2000–2005. Now we are



beginning to see the decline of property taxes, from which we will not recover without the resumption of the growth we had experienced over the past three decades.

The purpose of this article is to report that Plainfield Township has, by necessity, been tightening its belt, reducing staff, taking a closer look at how we do business, and keeping our little ship afloat. We are doing what we have to do, but there are a growing number of things that aren't getting done. Putting off maintenance, replacement, and repair of township facilities and infrastructure, is a risky proposition and is not sustainable over the long haul. We continue to manage with the resources

that are available – as those resources continue to shrink.

As the fiscal situation continues to worsen, Plainfield Township is addressing its sustainability without increasing taxes. There may come a time, however, when we have cut and postponed all that we can, and the revenue side of the coin will need to be considered. Going down?

*Robert C. Homan, Township Manager*

## FROM THE CLERK

### Count Our Blessings

**A**s the snow finally melts I am looking out my window and thinking of how the snow had blocked my view not that many weeks ago. I thought at that time we had to endure these cold winters here in Michigan, burr! Today I realize that we are blessed to live in a place that we are safe from many of the disasters that are happening around the world. We have an abundance of fresh water, the ability to finance the upkeep of the infrastructure that makes our community a very safe and healthy place to raise our families. Our schools are exceptional. At our last Board meeting we were privileged to have the two newest Eagle Scouts from the Gerald R. Ford Council lead us in the Pledge of Alle-

giance. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day many of you turn out to honor the brave men and women who have and continue to protect us from harm.

All of you who call Plainfield Township home create this community spirit and I want to thank you for making this such a wonderful place to live. Spring is in the air and we all need to roll up our sleeves and work together to continue to improve this great community. I believe that small government is best because the elected officials are more accessible to citizens. Have a great summer and I hope to see you at the Farmers Market.

*Scott Harvey, Township Clerk*



## Farmers Market News

As spring is fast approaching and the farmers are getting ready to plant their crops, we know that the Plainfield Township Farmers Market can't be far away. Again this year, the Market will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Plainfield and 5 Mile, near Frontline Church and the Plainfield Township Fire Headquarters. The Market will run from June 14 thru October 28.

I just completed a Farmers Market Manager Certification program through the Michigan Farmers Association at Michigan State University. It was a course that covered various topics on how to run and improve a Farmers Market. We received information on policies dealing with conflict management, business planning, fundraising, and marketing. My hope is that I can use this knowledge to improve the Market.

This year we are adding two new opportunities to the Market. First, is the Bridge Card. This is a U.S. Department of Agriculture funded project, which is instituted to help the less fortunate purchase food. People who qualify for the card can come to the Market and see me and I will issue them Bridge Bucks that can be used to purchase any food in the Market that

was not prepared on site. Also, we have just been authorized to receive Double Up Bucks. This is a program totally funded by private foundations. When someone uses their Bridge Card, they can get a match up to twenty dollars per visit. This is a way that a person can purchase nutritious food at no cost to them. The only catch is Double Up Bucks must be used to purchase Michigan grown fruits and vegetables.

These two new opportunities will benefit all of us. First, it helps put nutritious food on the table of those in need of assistance. It will increase traffic and vendor sales, which will help the local farmers and our local economy. I anticipate that the increase in traffic will attract a more diverse set of vendors in which we will all benefit.

As you can see, we are trying to improve the Market for everyone. If you have any suggestions, please stop by the Plainfield Farmers Market and share them with me. I hope to see you there. Our new website is [www.plainfieldmarket.com](http://www.plainfieldmarket.com), and plans are to have the website and a Facebook site share what fresh produce is available on each day the Market is open.

*Jim Teneyck, Farmers Market Manager*

# 2011 VERSLUIS PARK NEWS

## FISHING INSTRUCTION

Plainfield Township is in discussions regarding partnering with the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America for fishing instruction at Versluis Park. The fishing instruction dates and times for June and July will be posted at Versluis Park. Plainfield Township will provide the bait, and we have some poles for those who do not have one. Last year the kids caught walleye, blue gill, and bass. Plainfield Township is privileged to have such a highly regarded organization such as the Izaak Walton League of America to assist our youth in the understanding and experience of fishing.



## SUMMER SWIMMING SEASON

Versluis Park will be opening for the Swimming Season on Sunday, May 29th, 2011 from 11:00 am-8:00 pm (swimming beach ONLY). All other areas of Versluis Park are open from 11:00 am-9:00 pm. Plainfield Charter Township residents may purchase a Season Pass Sticker for \$15.00. A Non-Resident Season Pass Sticker is being offered for \$75.00. The entrance fee per vehicle is



now \$8.00. You may purchase Season Pass Stickers at the Park. The Plainfield Charter Township Parks & Recreation Department wishes you a wonderful Summer Season!

## LIFE JACKETS

Plainfield Charter Township is recommending that ALL children under the age of 8 years use a "Coast Guard Approved" life jacket while in the water at Versluis Park. Please check the label on the inside of your life jacket to make sure it is "Coast Guard Approved." We will NOT allow life jackets or flotation devices that are not "Coast Guard Approved."



Versluis Park was designed to accommodate ALL levels of ability. All activity areas are designed to enhance the park experience for the community of the disabled. As the disabled community uses the facilities at the park, please check with the staff to take advantage of any accommodations we can make to improve your experience. Those guests who choose to swim need to speak with the Lifeguards to ensure a safe experience.

Please remember that pets are *not* allowed and that Versluis Park is *Drug and alcohol free*.

## History Buffs Welcome

The Plainfield Township Historical Preservation and Advisory Committee meets regularly to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Hyser House Historical Museum, and is tasked with protecting and preserving Township history. The Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through March at Township Hall (6161 Belmont Avenue, NE) at 3:45 pm, and May to November at the Hyser House Museum (6440 West River Drive, NE) at 6:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encour-

aged to share anything regarding Township history with the Committee.

The Hyser House Museum is open to the public the first Sunday of each month, May through December, from 2:00-4:30 pm. For more information, visit the Plainfield Charter Township website at: [www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pcthistory.htm](http://www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pcthistory.htm) or contact the Township's Buildings and Grounds/Parks and Recreation Department at (616) 363-9399.

## Spring Inspections of Businesses Located in Wellhead Protection Zone

Plainfield Charter Township has implemented a "Wellhead Protection Ordinance" in order to safeguard our public water supply. The Township draws its 16-million-gallon-per-day water supply from 16 wells located in three separate well fields, and the protection of these sensitive areas is imperative. The groundwater in much of the area is less than 20 feet below ground and there is no protective clay layer above it. If a release of pollutants occurs on the ground it will travel very quickly toward the Township's wells and the Grand River. This ordinance was designed and approved to protect the public water supply by identifying potential threats in areas where the groundwater is vulnerable to contamination. A "Wellhead Protection Zone" has been identified as the area whose groundwater has the greatest potential to be negatively impacted from activities conducted on the surface above it.

This spring, the township will be inspecting selected businesses located within the "Wellhead

Protection Zone." The selection criteria are based on the type of business operation and the risk of potential contamination threats that a business poses to the public water supply. Water Department inspectors will evaluate and address the key levels of risk and the township will assist businesses in developing and implementing a plan to protect the public water supply in accordance with the ordinance. Businesses within the "Wellhead Protection Zone" requiring inspection will be sent a letter scheduling an inspection date and time in the next few weeks. If you have any questions regarding these inspections, please contact Rick Solle, P.E., Director of Public Services, at (616) 363-9660.

A brief summary along with the entire ordinance and a map of the "Wellhead Protection Zone" can be viewed through the "*Wellhead Ordinance and Wellhead Protection Zone Map*" links located on the Township's website ([www.plainfieldchartertwp.org](http://www.plainfieldchartertwp.org)).

Mary J. Trapp

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## Celebrate Memorial Day, May 30

Back on September 16, 2002, ground was broken for the Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Jupiter and Belmont. Recognition programs have been held since then every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Please join Township officials and Representative Peter Mac Gregor, at Veterans Memorial Park, on Wednesday, May 30, 2:00 pm, for a celebration in recognition of Memorial Day.



The library offers a variety of fun and educational programs aimed for families and children of all ages. Everyone is invited to join in the fun

### Programs for Families

**Magical Creatures** – Wave a magic wand and enter a fantastical realm of magic, wizardry, and other-worldly fun. Bring the whole family to enjoy crafts and games with elves, giants, fairies, unicorns or other fabulous creatures! Imagination and creativity required. Registration is required. Monday, April 4 at 10:15 am at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Going Green** – How does your garden grow? Come share in crafts and activities full of gardening goodness. Registration is required and participation is limited. Thursday, April 7 at 2:00 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library; Monday, May 2 at 10:30 am at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.

**French Storytime** – Enjoy stories, crafts and tons of fun in a language you speak or would like to speak. Run by bilingual volunteers, these programs are entertaining and educational. For families with children of all ages. Tuesdays at 10:15 am from April 12-May 3 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Animal Crackers Petting Zoo** – Thursday, June 16 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library; Tuesday, June 28 from 3:00-4:00 pm at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library

**Beyond Magic with Magician Tom Plunkard** – This high-impact magic show is loaded with new tricks. Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Tuesday, July 19 from 1:00-2:00 pm at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.

**Art Attack!** – Create sculptures, prints, drawings, paintings, collages, and wearable art to take home with you, and help us decorate banners to hang in the library! Wednesday, June 22 from 10:30-11:30 am at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.



**Joel Tacey's One-derful World Comedy Show** – Be ready to laugh as versatile entertainer Joel Tacey presents a comedy and juggling show for the whole family. Thursday, June 30 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**For Young Children – Ages 6 & under Rhyme Time Music & Movement** – Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games, and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening, and literacy skills. Tuesdays at 1:00 pm April 5-26 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.

**Baby Time for ages birth-18 months.** Join us at the library for a special one-on-one bonding time with baby while you enjoy songs, rhymes, stories, and play time. Registration is required. Wednesdays at 1:30 pm from June 15-July 27 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Toddler Time for ages birth-3 years.** Babies, toddlers and their parents are invited to join us for stories, music and rhymes. Registration is required. Mondays at 10:30 am April 4-April 25 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library. Tuesdays at 10:15 am from June 14-July 26 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library. Thursdays at 10:15 am from June 16-July 28 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library. Mondays at 10:30 am from June 20-July 25 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.

**KDL: 18 locations,  
1 convenient phone number: 616-784-2007**

**Preschool Storytime for ages 3-6 years** – Stories, songs, crafts and other book-related fun with a different theme each week. Registration is required. Mondays at 10:30 am April 4-April 25 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library. Tuesdays at 10:15 am from June 14-July 26 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library. Thursdays at 10:15 am from June 16-July 28 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library. Mondays at 10:30 am from June 20-July 25 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library.

**Family Storytime for ages birth-6 years** – Stories, songs, crafts and other book-related fun for the family with a different theme each week. Registration is required. Wednesdays at 10:30 am from April 6-27 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library. Mondays at 10:15 am from June 13-July 25 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Programs for School Age Children –  
Ages 6 and up**

**Ruff Readers** – A unique read-aloud program that pairs kids ages 6 and up with trained therapy dogs and handlers who love to hear a good story. Registration is required and participation is limited. Call to register for a 15-minute session. Presented in partnership with the West Michigan Therapy Dog Association. Mondays from 6:30-7:30 pm June 13-August 1 at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Programs for Teens**

**Teen Crew (for Teen Volunteers)** – We’re looking for a few good tweens and teens to volunteer their time this summer to help with our summer reading program. Enthusiasm and energy are a must. Fun times guaranteed! Sign up starts May 2 at the KDL Comstock Park Branch Library. Applications are due May 28th at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library. Orientation is Saturday, June 4 at 2:00 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Zumba Dance Party!** – Learn how to dance Zumba in an easy to learn format. Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Louis Hunt, CSI** – Ever wonder how real CSI’s work? Join Grand Rapids’ own Louis Hunt, a Scientific Support Unit Supervisor for the Kent County’s Sheriff Dept. to analyze crime scenes and hear about forensics in law enforcement. Tuesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Salsa Dance Workshop** – Learn the roots of Cuban music and its evolution into salsa music. Then learn how to dance salsa! Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library.

**Programs for Adults**

**Early Childhood Essentials** – Earn hours toward your state-required professional development

*continued on next page*

**PLAINFIELD BRANCH HOURS**

2650 5-Mile Road NE • Phone: 647-3930  
Mon. through Thurs. 9:30 am to 8:00 pm  
Friday, Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
*(during the school year only)*

**COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH HOURS**

3943 West River Drive • Phone: 647-3860  
Monday 9:30 am to 8:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Friday, Saturday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

## **ADULT PROGRAMS** *continued from page 7*

opment or just get some new ideas for your young child while having fun and networking with other parents and childcare workers. This program is for adults. No children please. Registration is required and participation is limited. Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library – Healthy Snacks for Kids, Heather Leets, Spartan Stores Dietician, Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 pm at the KDL Plainfield Township Branch Library – Speech Concerns, Heather Drayton, Speech Therapist

### **KDL Special Programs**

**Word Wise-Teen Poetry Contest** – It's KDL's 8th annual poetry contest for teens! Visit the KDL website for rules and entry forms, or stop by your local KDL branch. Fame and

fortune await! Submissions accepted April 1-30, and winners will be announced mid-May. For grades 6-12.

**Join the Summer Reading Club! One World, Many Stories @ Your Library** – Get a cool reading reward, and enter your name in a drawing for a new bike and other great prizes! Monday, June 13th until Saturday, August 6th.

**Join the Teen Reading Raffle! You Are Here @ Your Library** – The more you read the more chances you have to win! Grand prize is a mall gift certificate. Monday, June 13th until Saturday, August 6th.

**Join the Reading Club for Adults! – Novel Destination!** Monday, June 13th until Saturday August 6th.

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## **Fire Safety Tips *From “Freddie the Fire Truck”***

Every year, many children lose their lives at home from fire and burns, but young children can learn to stay away from hot things and they can learn what to do if there is a fire. Children feel safer when they know their family's fire safety plan, but someone has to teach them. Teachers at school help, but the most important teacher is YOU. You are the best person to teach your children how to be safe in your home.

### **To make your home safer, you should do the following:**

- \* Keep hot things away from children.
- \* Lock up matches and lighters.
- \* Stay in the kitchen when you cook.
- \* Do not let children use the stove or microwave oven without constant supervision.
- \* Turn pot handles in.
- \* Test hot food before giving it to your child
- \* Keep appliances and cords out of reach.
- \* Blow out candles when adults leave the room.
- \* If you smoke, smoke outside.
- \* Put water on cigarettes and cigar butts before dumping them in the trash

### **Teach your children to:**

- \* Stay away from things that are hot or can be hot
- \* Tell a grownup when they need help.
- \* Stay away from matches and lighters. Tell a grownup if they see them.



Please call the Plainfield Fire Department at (616)361-2895 with any questions about fire safety.



## Commodity Distribution from River Grove

Commodities are distributed from the River Grove Retirement Community, located at 5761 Jupiter Avenue, just north of West River Drive (enter from Jupiter Avenue), from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The next distribution date is **June 2, 2011**.

Upcoming dates for distribution in 2011 are June 2, and September 1, and December 1.

To see if you qualify or if you have any questions, call Jillian at (616) 447-0515, or come to the distribution site on the above date. Bring Social Security cards for each member of your family along with income statements. You must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road.

### FROM THE SUPERVISOR

## Reflections and More

Looking back at all that happened during 2010, I can only say, "Thankfully, the year that was, is over!" When examining the twelve months of 2010, one must exclaim, "WHEW!"



As my job has taken me into many aspects of life during the year, I have encountered very few people who have not been affected by circumstances, which have changed their lives. I truly believe that the clichés, "it's business as

usual" and, "one size fits all," are expressions we won't hear much of anymore.

We all know the *norm* just isn't the norm anymore. The world has changed, people's lives have changed, and the way we do almost everything has changed. I cannot totally support the theory that all changes are good and everyone and everything will be better off in the long term.

Changes have occurred within the confines of our various governments. From the federal

level on down to the state, county, cities, villages and townships, all have experienced changes of varying degrees. Because of revenue constraints, Plainfield Charter Township is finding new ways of getting jobs done and supplies procured on a more conservative basis. Cost containment is foremost on the minds of the Township employees, and I commend them for their cost savings ideas. It has become a real team effort.

Taking a couple of steps back and analyzing the changes that personally affect you can be quite troubling in some respects. Unfortunately you may need to adjust your lifestyle, your business style, or your way of doing certain things because almost everyone has been dealt new cards from a new deck. One's first reaction is, "I can't believe this is happening to me or to me and my family. What am I going to do?" I believe each and every person will be establishing new comfort zones for themselves and for their families.

The word *progression* has been replaced by the words *regression* and *depression*, and now we must size-up our own situations and react accordingly. I know that is easier said than done, considering the new cards we have been dealt, but we should all think, believe, and embrace a POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

George K. Meek, Supervisor

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

# PLAINFIELD FD FIRE DEPARTMENT

I have just returned from Washington D.C. after having been selected to serve as a representative to the National Volunteer Fire Service Summit hosted by the International Association of Fire Chief's Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS). The goal of the Washington, D.C.-based summit was for fire and emergency service leaders to address the challenges facing the fire service today and explore ways to move volunteer and combination departments forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century— inclusive of volunteer, on-call and part-time personnel.

Chief Tim Wall, Chair of the IAFC's VCOS explained why the Summit was held, "Many volunteer fire departments are at a crossroads: the economy, the increasing demand for local and regional emergency services, new roles in national preparedness and response, and changing social norms are creating shifts in the way we do business. These changes aren't necessarily good or bad in-and-of themselves, but it's clear that if we are dedicated to continuing our tradition of service and excellence, we need to bring the community together, look at what works in this new environment, and what new ideas are out there."

Among the topics addressed in the summit were the impact of the new economy, recruitment and retention, firefighter health and safety, local government relations, and national legislative issues impacting volunteers. Much of our time was spent in small group work sessions tasked with developing recommendations that will be incorporated into a national report issued by VCOS.

The group to which I was assigned discussed how departments might improve service or cut costs by working cooperatively with other departments and agencies. I'd like to provide some information on how that is currently being done by fire departments in Kent County.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) testing is mandated to be done annually by MIOSHA. We are part of a co-op of eight departments that purchased the test equipment and now do in-house testing. Plainfield Fire Department (PFD) saves over \$2,000 per year by doing this testing in-house. Group purchasing is done whenever possible to try to get the best value for our dollar.

Rather than train and equip our department to handle hazardous material incidents, we work with the Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD). Any time there is a true hazardous material spill, which occurs about once a year, we either utilize GRFD for emergencies or one of the spill response companies for non-emergencies. GRFD is reimbursed through our Cost Recovery Ordinance. This process saves the department the expense of having at least twelve of our firefighters trained to the technician level at a cost of approximately \$10,000 each.

The provision of technical rescue response is similar in that we have not trained nor purchased the equipment to be a self-sufficient technical rescue team. A tech rescue incident requiring a full team response happens even less frequently than a hazmat response, but requires the special training and equipment to be performed safely. PFD has trained five firefighters who are able to work with GRFD personnel in

the event a person was trapped in a confined space, a building collapse or a trench collapse. We have the equipment and training to do high angle rescue, and we are not trained or equipped to do swift water rescue. The cost to fully train a firefighter to the technical rescue technician status is nearly \$20,000 per firefighter. Equipping a technical rescue team can be well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The most obvious way that the fire departments in Kent County work together is through mutual aid. Last year PFD provided mutual aid on 13 occasions and received it 11 times. Kent County departments have now gone the next step, to what is referred to as *initial* or *automatic aid*. In the instance of automatic aid, the assisting departments are dispatched at the same time as PFD, cutting their response time significantly. Currently, we respond with the GRFD one mile on both sides of the border on any reported structure fire, and the departments around us with trucks capable of carrying 2500 gallons of water or more (tankers) are dispatched to any reported structure fire where we do not have fire hydrants. This allowed us to avoid purchasing a tanker truck saving several hundred thousand dollars.

One possible means of saving money that has been suggested is to negotiate a contract with an ambulance company to have a unit assigned to the Township, and PFD would stop responding to medical emergencies. Another township in Kent County has done this and pays \$100,000 per year for one ambulance to be permanently assigned with a second supervisor vehicle staffed with one paramedic. I have done an analysis of our cost to provide EMS response, and it amounts to approximately \$28,000 per year. This includes extra wages for the occasional instance when our Paid-On-Call personnel respond, overtime that may be necessary, capital expenses such as Automatic Electronic Defibrillators, consumable expenses such as latex gloves, training, certification, fuel and maintenance on apparatus. This amounts to less than \$1 per resident and enables PFD to provide patient stabilization and preparation for transport by the ambulance within 4-6 minutes.

I gained quite a bit of knowledge at this summit and anticipate gaining even more from the group's final reports. Your fire department is doing everything possible to maintain the level of service citizens have come to expect while being conscious of decreasing revenue.

David Peterson, Fire Chief

Prevent pollution from entering your storm drains and protect the health of your family, your community, and the Grand River by following these tips:

- 1 Avoid scorching your lawn** from over-fertilization. Use slow-release fertilizers only 2-3 times per year. Non-phosphorus types are best for the environment.
- 2 Plant native plants** in your garden. Natives naturally need less water, fertilizers, and pesticides saving you time and money.
- 3 Pick up your pet waste** and dispose of it properly; otherwise, it could end up in your storm drain, the Grand River, and eventually your favorite Lake Michigan beach.



# The Profile

Plainfield Charter Township  
6161 Belmont NE  
Belmont, MI 49306

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 657

## Plainfield Charter Township

**TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS**  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday  
Phone: 364-8466

**TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
George Meek, Supervisor  
Scott Harvey, Clerk  
James Stover, Treasurer  
Rebecca Borek, Trustee  
Jack Hagedorn, Trustee  
Vic Matthews, Trustee  
Charles Weldon, Trustee

**MANAGER**  
Robert Homan

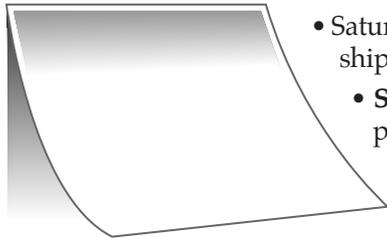
**TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**  
7:30 pm  
First and Third Mondays

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



The seal of Plainfield Charter Township, County of Kent, established in 1838. It features a circular design with a tree in the center, a plow to the left, and a sheaf of wheat to the right. The text 'PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP' is written around the top inner edge, 'COUNTY OF KENT' around the bottom inner edge, and '1838' in the center.

## Dates to remember



- Saturday, April 30 – **Passport office open** from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at Township Hall
- **School Board Election**, May 3 from 7:00 am-8:00 pm at your usual precinct polling location
- **Plainfield Township Farmers Market** runs June 14-October 28 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 pm-7:00 pm in the parking lot of the Frontline Community Church on Plainfield Avenue next to the Plainfield Fire Department Headquarters.

New this year will be the acceptance of Bridge Cards and Double up Bucks from the Fair Food Network.