

# THE PROFILE

\*PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER 3

PHONE 364-8466

AUGUST 2003

Since last November's vote empowered the Plainfield Township Board of Trustees (through the North Kent Sewer Authority) to negotiate with the City of Grand Rapids from a position of greater strength, NKSA representatives were successful in getting a "final" offer from the City. However, that offer was not sufficient to warrant abandoning the alternative of constructing North Kent's own clean water plant. The five communities constituting the North Kent Sewer Authority are nearly prepared to submit an application for a "National Pollution Discharge Elimination System" (NPDES) permit to the State of Michigan. During the process of assembling the necessary data for this NPDES permit, NKSA's engineers have determined that new wastewater treatment technology, known as Membrane Bio-Reactor (MBR) technology, may be the optimal approach toward developing a clean water plant to be located west of Coit Avenue just opposite the two operating gravel mining operations.

This MBR technology is being analyzed, and its application to the NKSA clean water plant site is being conceptually tested. NKSA representatives have visited MBR operational plants and will visit one now being constructed in Traverse City. This approach is, for lack of a better word, "exciting." Its potential impact on the Coit Avenue site and surrounding area – as well as the anticipated high level of wastewater treatment

– may make our goals of

- an environmentally beneficial clean water plant
- with least (or no) negative impact on the surrounding community
- at a cost comparable to or better than the alternative of continuing to send four to five million gallons of sewage per day to Grand Rapids' plant

achievable in a fashion and at a cost that will be

superior to that which we had previously envisioned. Our goal is the same; only the methods of reaching the goal are changing. Whenever I hear or read that folks downstream of the Grand Rapids wastewater treatment plant are receiving warnings not to have physical contact with the water of the Grand River, I cannot help but think what a positive thing it will be not to have any of that contaminated water coming from the NKSA communities. When we submit the NPDES application, we must convince the regulators of that benefit. I am optimistic, and I invite all of you to be optimistic with me. We

have come a long, long way from November of 1998, when Grand Rapids and its partner communities unveiled the "Grand Rapids Futures" Plan that found us at the crossroads of this watershed issue. Do we capitulate, or do we try to find another way – a better way for the citizens of Plainfield Township and the other NKSA communities? We chose – you chose – the latter.

*Robert Homan, Township Manager*

## Update:

### North Kent Sewer Situation

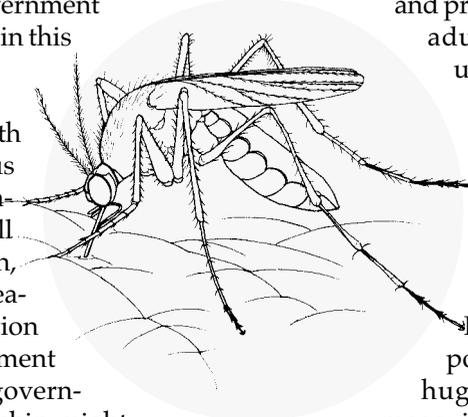


# West Nile Virus – Larvaciding Catch Basins

By now, you have probably read several newspaper articles about what Plainfield Township and several other municipalities are doing to prevent or retard the spread of the West Nile Virus in our communities. As an area-wide public health concern, we continue to hope that vigilance, public education, and common sense measures by everyone will see a reduction in the West Nile threat. After the scare of last fall, our citizens seem to expect that government is taking effective measures in this regard.

When the Kent County Health Department decided to focus its resources of public education and awareness, as well as monitoring the situation, and NOT to take active measures like mosquito population control, the Health Department also suggested that local governments like Plainfield Township might want to engaging in a little “larvaciding.” What is larvaciding? Larvaciding means *killing larvae*. Mosquito larvae – we’re focusing on *Culex* mosquito larvae – develops from mosquito eggs through three stages to become an (nasty) adult mosquito that transmits West Nile Virus. The theory is, that if we can reduce the number of larvae that develop into adults, we thereby reduce the threat of West Nile Virus.

Since no larvaciding was being proposed to be undertaken by larger units of government, some cities and townships decided to investigate and act on what they could do by themselves in a cost effective manner. Seminars were attended, literature on the subject (killing mosquito larvae) was reviewed, telephone calls were made, permits were applied for, and recommendations were forwarded to the governing bodies of elected representatives. Catch basins are a favorite place for *Culex* mosquito eggs to be deposited and hatched into larvae.



Like other municipalities in other metropolitan areas, my colleagues and I recommended that our governing bodies authorize the treatment of public catch basins. Two methods of treatment are widely used. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, with clear limitations and instructions, permits them. One is a bacteria-based compound that is effective for about 30 days. The other is a chemical called *methoprene* that is ingested by the larvae and prevents them from mutating into adults. *Methoprene*, in the form used by Plainfield Township this summer, is inserted (in briquette form) into catch basins and is effective for about 150 days.

Hopefully, our treatment of about 2,200 catch basins in Plainfield Township will have a positive effect on eliminating a huge number of potential *Culex* mosquitoes. The only negative I have heard about what we have done is from a number of well-intentioned and intelligent folks who fear that the permitted, approved, and researched chemical *methoprene* may possibly have future bad effects on fish, other wildlife, and even humans. As with many, many other insecticides, rodenticides, wormicides, and other *-icides*, one should weigh the known risks against the benefits. We are what we are, we have what we have, and we enjoy what we enjoy because proper application of good science made it possible. When the regulatory agencies tell us we cannot use *methoprene* to reduce the occurrence of West Nile Virus, then I will be the first to comply. If the Township Board tells me not to use *methoprene*, I will be the first to comply. Until then, I believe that Plainfield Township has done the right thing at a reasonable cost to help, in part, to reduce the risk of our citizens becoming infected with West Nile Virus.

Robert C. Homan, Township Manager

## HAVA comes to Plainfield Charter Township



The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is federal legislation that will affect every state's voting methods. It is legislation that came about because of the Florida voting disaster in 2000. The intention of the legislation is to administer payments when funds are appropriated to implement election administration requirements under the act and to replace punch card and lever machine election equipment.

The Michigan Secretary of State, under Michigan legislation, will select one form of voting for the state. The Michigan HAVA committee has recommended, and the Secretary of State proposes to select, optical scan equipment. Direct Record Equipment (DRE) will be used for disabled voters.

What does this mean to Plainfield Charter Township? We have had DRE voting devices since 1995. This is the most technologically advanced system and affords opportunities for early voting on computers and voting in multiple districts on one device. At the present time I am working hard to continue to be permitted to use the DRE equipment since two systems, optical scan and DRE, will be used throughout the state. Michigan legislation permits the DRE to continue to be used for ten years following its purchase. Plainfield Charter Township purchased its equipment in 1995, therefore, changes are ahead if we are unable to resolve this issue.

The state has already received 15 million dollars from the federal government to begin com-

pliance with the HAVA legislation. You may notice some of these changes in the 2004 elections but the most significant changes will come after 2005. Some of the concerns about the paper trail of the DRE equipment have been alleviated and organizations such as the League of Women Voters are now supporting the DRE equipment. Many states have selected DRE as their statewide system. Stay tuned for updates on this important subject.

The Presidential Preference Primary election scheduled for February 2004 has been cancelled statewide. A local special election may be scheduled in February 2004 so please watch the news carefully.

In preparation for a busy election year in 2004, you may want to check your voter registration online. Please go to [www.publius.com](http://www.publius.com) and enter your first and last name. Follow the instructions to receive information about your registration and your polling location. On the same screen with your personal information you may click on instructions to see operating instructions for the Unilect DRE voting equipment, a copy of the ballot when it is ready, and a calendar of election dates to remember. Of course, you may also call the Clerk's office, 364-8466, during office hours, to verify your registration. Please make a point to check your registration in advance of any election day, especially General Elections.

*Susan Morrow, Clerk*

# Reminder: Conserve Water!

In previous *Profiles*, our Water Department Director, Vince Ferrarese, explained why conserving and not wasting water is important in Plainfield Township. Now that summer time is in full swing and people are watering their lawns and gardens like crazy, a reminder is in order. The price of water is up from \$2.16 to \$2.53 per thousand gallons. The price is still a bargain – you get an adequate, safe, and dependable supply of water, but that doesn't mean it should be wasted. More than half of the world's population cannot get safe water at any time and at any place. Some must travel long distances; some must wait in line; and some simply can't get it and use bad water.

In Plainfield Township, we pretty much take it for granted. Just turn on the faucet and there it is! On an average day (heavy summer use is part of that average), the water users in Plainfield Township's public water system draw about 3.3 million gallons of water. This summer we have already hit a 9 million-gallon day. Last year we hit a 10.4 million gallon day! It is going up and up, and if it keeps on going up and up, our system will not have enough capacity to satisfy the demand. For another ten million dollars, capacity can be built, but your water rates will go up to pay for it. The good news is that this need not be inevitable. We waste so much water that it staggers the imagination.

Automatic sprinklers are shooting water all over the place during rainstorms. Manual sprinklers, too. Just look at the streams of water running over the curb and down the driveway into storm water catch basins. Pure waste! Much water either doesn't hit the grass or the garden, or so much of it is applied that the excess just runs off to the lowest spot – usually a roadside ditch or a concrete gutter. I'll wager that at least

2,000,000 gallons per day is being wasted this summer. That is like flushing over 5,000 one-dollar bills down the sewer every day! It means that we are unnecessarily lurching toward having to build more wells and treatment facilities.

What to do? Don't turn on your lawn sprinkler and forget about it. Many are left on (often without being moved) in the same place for hours. The grass may get four or five times the water it needs, but it doesn't benefit the grass four or five times as much. Get a rain or moisture sensor for your automatic system. When there has been enough rain, the sensor will tell the system to skip a cycle. ADJUST your sprinkler heads regularly. Don't water the street or the driveway. When it is windy, don't let your system run – wait until the wind dies down. Best times to water are between sunrise until about 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Water applied to lawns will not evaporate as fast during those hours, and breezes aren't as strong early in the morning or late in the evening. Select the proper heads, diffusers, and other methods of getting the right amount of water you need for each targeted use. Perforated hoses and "dribblers" can do a whole lot more for a planting bed than a powerful jet going back and forth. New lawns may need more watering cycles of shorter duration, where established lawns do better with heavier applications. Check with landscape experts to be sure. Also, set your mower blade as high as it will go, because longer grass can tolerate hot sun and less moisture better than short grass. Less water is needed, and weeds are reduced. **Runoff and misdirected water are obvious symptoms. Paying attention to what your sprinklers are doing and making necessary corrections is not costly and will prevent a lot of waste.** When in doubt, consult a professional.

*Robert Homan, Township Manager*

**DO YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER!!!** Pick up a Rain Gauge for your lawn. The first 100 residents that stop by the Township Offices beginning August 9th, will receive a free, Plainfield Township Rain Gauge as part of the Township's Water Conservation Program.

# Ordinance Enforcement

Since starting to work for Plainfield Township in May, my job has been to respond to complaints about inoperable (junk) vehicles (expired license plates), trash, and unmowed grass and weeds. Plainfield Township is a community of over 30,000 people, 11,100 parcels of property, and 36 square miles. Generally speaking, this is a neat community with a positive image. However, a relatively few property owners or renters can make a bad impression when they allow junk cars, trash, and unkempt landscaping on their property. Unkempt property that looks bad, attracts rodents and other varmints, and generally decreases property values drags down neighborhoods. Plainfield Township has ordinances against these things, and I have been assigned the job of receiving and acting on complaints about ordinance violations. If there are problems like these in your neighborhood and you want them taken care of,

please feel free to contact me at 364-8466. Ask for Ordinance Enforcement or my extension – 146. If I am not available, leave a message, and I will return your call on my next working day. I am part time, so it may take more than a day or two for me to respond, but I will respond.

On behalf of Plainfield Township, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the efforts of the vast majority of residents and businesses who help to keep our Township beautiful. This is shaping up as a really nice summer, and everything seems even better when the work of those folks gets noticed. I think of you when I go after the few that need my attention, and I really feel that my work is worthwhile when I see the good impression your home or business makes.

*Anne Marie Bigger  
Ordinance Enforcement*

## Does Your House **Hold** Hazardous Waste?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was developed to provide county residents with a safe and effective means to dispose of their unwanted hazardous materials. How do you tell if something could be hazardous? Read the product labels. Words such as “Danger,” “Poison,” “Warning,” or “Caution” will identify products that contain hazardous ingredients. When these products are discarded, they become household hazardous wastes. These products generally fall into five categories:

- **Cleaning Products:** Drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, spot removers.
- **Automotive Products:** Gasoline and solvents, brake or transmission fluids, car batteries, polishes and waxes.



- **Paint and Paint Products:** Thinners, mineral spirits, oil base paints, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans, epoxies and adhesives.
- **Pesticides:** Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rat or insect poisons.
- **Miscellaneous:** Pool chemicals, driveway sealer, roofing tar, hobby or photo chemicals, mercury, batteries (Ni-Cad, lithium, alkaline, etc.).

Call (616) 336-2501 or 1-888-217-2850 to set an appointment most convenient for you, and for more information on Kent County’s Solid Waste Recycling and HHW Programs. This program is **free** to the residents of Kent County,

but we cannot accept materials from farms, businesses, offices, or institutions. There are resources available for these groups, but this program is for households **only**.



# WHITE PINE TRAIL UPDATE

SUMMER 2003

By Dick Granse,  
*Friends of the White Pine Trail*

In a major decision, effective on April 1, 2003, the Department of Natural Resources terminated its active management of linear State Park Trails including the White Pine Trail. The DNR is looking toward local governmental units to assume management of the trails through a system of temporary user permits and long-term lease agreements. The DNR is hopeful that the larger governmental entities, i.e., the counties, will step forward as major partners in these agreements. Several meetings have been held regarding these issues that were optimistic and constructive, but it appears the resolutions will not be forthcoming rapidly.

In the meantime, what is clear about the immediate situation of the White Pine Trail?

1. The DNR is committed to maintaining the integrity of the trail corridor – it will continue in existence into the future.

2. Maintenance and management activities are taking place this season, though not as extensive as we would prefer.
3. The Friends of the White Pine Trail has been designated by the DNR as a major coordinator of volunteer services for the entire trail.
4. Local communities have offered significant assistance in management and maintenance, despite lack of formal agreements.

The Friends of the White Pine Trail will continue to keep the community informed as this progress proceeds through our monthly meetings and newsletters such as the *Profile*. Messages are also displayed on the kiosk at the Belmont Staging Area. Membership in the Friends is more important than ever to assist in maintaining the trail and having a voice in its future. For membership or other information call us at (616) 866-8464 or contact us at P.O. Box 159, Belmont, MI 49306.

## Friends of the White Pine Trail Meeting Schedule—all meetings at 7:00 p.m.

August 13	Pierson Township Building — just off 131 at Pierson Exit
September 10	Algoma Township Building — Algoma Road just south of 13 Mile Rd.
October 8	Plainfield Township Building
November 12	Nelson Township Building — 2 Maple St. downtown Sand Lake
December 10	Comstock Park Library West River Drive at Lamoreaux

## Scheduled Work Days

- Meet at parking lot north of Arnie's Restaurant in downtown Rockford at 8:45 am — the first Saturday of the month — September 6<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Urgent workdays as needed — anytime. Call Us!

## SPECIAL EVENT

**Third Annual Pedal & Picnic Bike Ride:** Saturday, August 23, 2003 — Dwight Lydell Park rear pavilion. This is a family oriented event with safe, well-marked routes of varying lengths on the White Pine Trail and low traffic volume roads. Picnic lunch is available. Registration forms are available at the Township Building and local bike shops. For more information call (616) 874-6873 or e-mail: [pedalpicnic@yahoo.com](mailto:pedalpicnic@yahoo.com).

## Freely access your assessing and tax information...

You can access your tax and assessing information either via the Internet or telephone. The web address is [www.plainfieldchartertp.org](http://www.plainfieldchartertp.org) or [www.ugotpal.com](http://www.ugotpal.com). You don't have to use a logon or password. After selecting Plainfield Charter Township, you will arrive at the search criteria page. Here is where you can enter a name, parcel number, or street address to retrieve your data. The data available includes assessment information, legal description, and current year and prior year tax information. You can print the pages for later references. The telephone number is 1-800-846-8725, and our identification number is 4110. You will be given several menus whereby the information described above is also available.

## Your taxes paid from a mortgage escrow account...

For various reasons, a number of taxpayers are refinancing or restructuring their mortgages. If you refinance or change lender after May 1 (for the summer tax bill) or November 1 (for the winter tax bill), the tax bill may show (and be sent to) 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 tax bill preparation. Also, some Mortgage Companies will not follow our procedure for requesting tax bills and may have their own way of obtaining the correct amount of tax owing.

## 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 are 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 financial institution to the Township. No stamps! No late penalty fees! No lost mail! If you choose automatic debit payment, PLEASE remember that when you change your financial institution or accounts, you MUST let us know so we can withdraw your payment from the proper account.

## Summer Education Tax 2003...

The State decided to collect *all* of the State Education Tax (SET) from all school districts on the summer tax bill beginning in 2003, instead of collecting half in the summer and half in the winter. To soften the impact of this change, the SET millage was dropped from 6 mills to 5 mills for 2003. For those living in the Comstock Park and Kenowa Hills school districts, you actually got a 1 mill reduction, because in the past you have paid 6 mills in the summer. For those of you in the Northview and Rockford school districts, you were taxed the 5 mills but you will NOT have any State Education Tax on your 2003 winter bill. In the end, the State Education Tax for 2003 did not increase and will resume at the 6-mill rate in the summer of 2004 for all school districts.

## 2003 summer tax bills...

In the past, the tax bills were printed locally by Kent County. Because of printer problems, a third-party, in Bay City, Michigan, processed the printing of the 2003 summer tax bills. The target was to have the bill to you within 5 days after I started the preparation process. I started the process on June 24. Sometimes the best plans just don't work. The tax information was available via the Internet or telephone as I mentioned earlier in this article. I am not sure where the 2003 winter tax bills will be printed, but my plan once again is to have them to you by December 1.

# Plainfield Fire Department

I wish to share with *Profile* readers my thoughts on several subjects: the fire that occurred on Four Mile at Manderly, firefighter recruitment, progress on the new fire station at Plainfield and 5 Mile, and the promotion of a new Equipment Operator.

Plainfield Fire Department (PFD) was recently called to assist Grand Rapids Township's Fire Department (GRTFD) at a fire on Four Mile Road. Our first notification from central dispatch was that they had received several calls of a home with fire and smoke coming through the roof in the area of Dean Lake and Four Mile. When the fire department receives a call with this information, the firefighters anticipate two things: (1) that it is most likely a real emergency fire situation, and (2) that it will take hard work and some luck to save the structure. If the fire has burned through the roof, it has been burning for quite some time! GRTFD immediately requested that PFD be dispatched as well. Our lieutenant on duty realized that the area did not have hydrants and requested that our tanker (a fire truck that holds larger amounts of water) be dispatched. GRTFD and PFD arrived almost simultaneously to find a large home heavily involved with fire. Despite the best efforts of both departments, the only portion of the home that was not completely destroyed was the two story attached garage.

There are several reasons that the home was so severely damaged. First and foremost was the intensity and volume of fire upon arrival. The larger the fire, the more water it requires to extinguish it. Second, the home's construction allowed for fast fire spread (large open spaces, exposed wood). Third was the lack of hydrants. The initial attack crews had to wait for water once they had used what they carried in the engines. Fourth was the access to the scene. The portion of Four Mile Road where

the fire occurred provides limited access, and there was minimal room to maneuver fire apparatus. The fire department can function better when there is adequate room to maneuver. This need for space is amplified when there are no hydrants, because the tankers must get in and out with their water.

What can you as a homeowner do to minimize your risk? Make sure that your address is clearly posted (This was not a problem in this instance, but it can be). Have functioning smoke alarms, and, if you contract with an alarm company, make sure that they notify the fire department *immediately* upon receipt of an alarm from your home. If you live on a private drive, make sure that it is wide enough to allow fire department access, and make sure that you keep trees and brush trimmed back. If you live near woods, make sure that you have an area cleared around your home to act as a firebreak. Have an escape plan for your family and practice it regularly.

Now is the time of year that we are preparing our new Paid On Call firefighters to start training. If you have an interest in helping your community and think you would enjoy the excitement of belonging to the fire department, now is the time to check us out. You can see what is involved in becoming a member of our team and print an application by visiting our web site, [www.plainfieldfire.org](http://www.plainfieldfire.org). Being a member of the fire department is not for everyone, but there are many personal rewards.

The new fire station and training center, on Plainfield Avenue at Five Mile, is actually starting to look like a building as I write this. By the time you read it, I anticipate that the walls will be up and the roof on. So far the problems that we have encountered have been minimal. The construction is being documented on our web site.

One of the benefits of being the fire chief is that occasionally I get to pass on good news to our employees. This happened recently when I was able to pass on the recommendation of a panel that interviewed promotional candidates. The panel recommended Jerry Burk, one of our Paid On Call members. Jerry started his new position on July

3<sup>rd</sup>. He has worked very hard to be placed in this position, and I'm sure he will do a fine job for the residents of Plainfield Township. Jerry replaces Mark Fankhauser, who left the Township to continue his career with the City of Grand Rapids. Good luck, Mark. We will miss you.

*Chief David Peterson*



## MSU Extension's Fall 2003 Citizen Planner Program Targeted Towards Allegan, Kent and Ottawa County Residents

### Citizen Planner History

Local Planning Commissioners and Zoning Boards of Appeals members are often called upon to make important decisions to guide the growth and development of their communities. Issues surrounding land use planning and regulation, and the tools and techniques available within Michigan to address them have become increasingly complex.

Michigan State University Extension's *Citizen Planner Program* was initiated by the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce's New Designs for Growth, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, MSU Extension and MSU North to address the basic, ongoing training needs of citizens appointed to serve on local land use planning bodies in northwest Michigan.

The primary objective of the *Citizen Planner Program* is to equip these volunteer community leaders with the technical knowledge and leadership skills needed to perform their duties more effectively and responsibly.

### The Program

*Citizen Planner* is a non-credit course series leading to an optional certificate of competency awarded by MSU. Earning the certificate in-

volves the successful completion of six core courses and the performance of 30 hours of community service in land use planning or related activities. Time spent on planning commissions and similar public boards qualifies for community service hours.

Courses will be held weekly on selected Wednesdays and Thursdays, from **6:30 to 9:00 PM at the Gaines Township Office**, south of Grand Rapids at 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE Caledonia, MI 49316. The first six "core" sessions provide a basic skill set. An advisory team identified the "local issues" as important issues. Pre-registration for participants is required. The program is open to the public.

The registration fee is **\$245 per participant**, which includes six core sessions and one local issues session of your choice. Other local issues sessions are \$35.00 each.

Those who would like scholarship information or a registration form mailed to them should contact Kendra Wills at (616) 336-3265 or [willsk@msue.msu.edu](mailto:willsk@msue.msu.edu). **Registration forms are due no later than September 3, 2003.**

For more information on the Citizen Planner Program visit: [www.msue.msu.edu/cplanner](http://www.msue.msu.edu/cplanner)

# KDOL Kent District Library NEWS

## Watch for these upcoming events, and please join us!

Programs for Young Children and Families (to register please call the library)

**Fall Laptime** programs begin the week of September 15. Stories, music and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their parents.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 am and 10:45 am
- Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 am

**Fall Storytime** programs also begin the week of September 15. Stories and crafts for ages 3-6.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 am and 10:45 am
- Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm

**Pajama Storytimes.** Come in your jammies and bring your favorite stuffed animal for bedtimes stories and fun.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursdays, November 13 and December 11
- Comstock Park Branch – Monday, November 10 at 6:30 pm

**An American Girl Party for Kaya.** Games, stories, music and lots of Native American crafts. Ages 6 and up.

- Plainfield Branch – Saturday, October 4 at 2 pm
- Comstock Park Branch – Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 pm

**A Most Unfortunate Library Event** celebrating Lemony Snicket and his *Series of Unfortunate Events*. Ages 6 and up

- Plainfield Branch – Saturday, November 1 at 2 pm
- Comstock Park Branch – Thursday, November 13 at 6:30 pm

**Explore Your Library with Dora the Explorer!!** Stories, songs, crafts and games using Spanish clues. For ages 6 and under.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursday, October 9 at 7 pm
- Comstock Park Branch – Monday, November 17 at 6:30 pm

**Carol Johnson, local songwriter and performer** will present a musical program for all ages.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursday, September 25 at 7 pm at the Plainfield Branch.

**Jim Wendling's Magic show.**

- Plainfield Branch – Saturday, November 29 at 11 am

### PLAINFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY

2650 5-Mile Road NE

Phone: 647-3930

#### HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday 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.

## Just for Teens

Show off your costumes and have a great time at the Halloween Teen Café at the Plainfield Branch on Oct. 28 at 7 pm.

The Teen Advisory Boards of both branches will meet to give input on everything from which books the library should buy to what kind of programs we should offer. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, just please call the library!

## Especially for Adults

### Herbal Harvest Gifts by Connie Hanson.

Ideas and ways to use herbs and essential oils to make wonderful holiday gifts.

- Plainfield Branch – Monday, September 15 at 7 pm.
- Comstock Park Branch – Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm

**West Michigan in The Civil War.** Mannie Gentile will reacquaint us with extraordinary Michigan historical figures.

- Plainfield Branch – Please call the library for date and time.

**Friendly Book Discussions.** Call the library to reserve your copy of the current book now!

- Plainfield Branch – Tuesday afternoons
- Comstock Park Branch – The fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm.

### COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

3943 West River Drive

Phone: 647-3860

#### HOURS

Monday	9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 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.

**Computer instruction.** One-on-one training sessions can be reserved by calling the Plainfield branch.

## The Friends of the Plainfield Library

have arranged a number of events for your enjoyment.

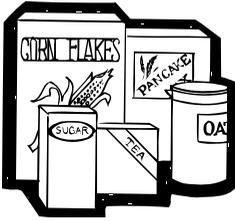
The first activity begins on **Friday, August 22.** It will be open to members of the Plainfield Library Friends from 10:00 am to noon, then open to the public from noon to 4:00 pm. It continues **Saturday, August 23** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The September event showcases Joan Adams and her collections of dolls and quilts. Come meet this talented artist on **Sunday, September 21,** from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

In October, the popular annual craft show “Before the Snow Flies” returns with some new and some familiar craft items. Come early on **Saturday, October 25,** for the best choices; doors open at 9:30 am. Your \$.50 entry fee makes you eligible for door prizes all day.

Finally, on Thursday, **November 6** at 7:00 pm, outdoorsman, author and journalist Jim DuFresne will give a program on Alaska and its wonders. Hope to see you at these special events!

**Remember,** the library Friends offer a special way for you to honor or remember someone special. Pick up your gift envelope at the library: You can designate how you would like the funds spent by suggesting subjects or titles. Memorial bookplates will be placed inside the cover with the name of the person being honored or remembered- and your name as a donor, if desired. And finally, the library Friends are always looking for new members and volunteers. Call the library for more information.



# Surplus Food Distribution Dates

Food will be distributed to qualified low-income families on these dates:

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003 • DECEMBER 4, 2003

MARCH 4, 2004 • JUNE 3, 2004

All families living between 10 Mile Road and 4 Mile Road are eligible. Distribution is at 6156 Belmont Avenue, from 9 am to 1 pm. To qualify, call Jim or Peg Granzotto at 784-5249 or come to our distribution site on the above dates.

## TOWNSHIP/ OFFICERS

### TOWNSHIP HALL SUMMER HOURS

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

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 pm

First and Third Mondays

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

## Hyser Museum News

New museum hours (the first Sunday of the month, all year-round, 2:00 - 4:30 pm) are working well for guests and the Historical Preservation Committee members. Activities will be planned for each 1st Sunday of the month, including the following programs:

- September 21—2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Doll and Quilt Show with the Plainfield Library on 5 Mile road. Exhibits, cookies, and punch.
- October 5—Pioneer and Harvest crafts
- December 7—Christmas program and crafts.  
These are hands-on, make and take home, crafts for children and adults, that have been a lot of fun in the past.

The Committee is currently working on restoring the layer of stone on the foundation of the Hyser House that was removed several years ago because of a water problem. Michigan Fieldstone will be added to give it a finished look.

## THE PROFILE

Plainfield Charter Township

6161 Belmont NE

Belmont, MI 49306

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