



The Profile

DECEMBER 2014



FROM THE SUPERVISOR

By the time you read this we will be well into December. I would like to wish you, your family and friends a joyous holiday season! As I write this, we are facing our first major snow storm of the year. As a reminder, please make sure you slow down when driving and turn on your headlights. If there is a sidewalk in front of your home or business make sure to remove the snow. Many in our community depend on the sidewalks day in and day out.

This summer the Township Board completed our first Strategic Plan. We spent several long sessions meeting with the Township's Department Heads to identify those shared priority *Vision Elements*, which are:

1. Infrastructure (roads, water and sewer)
2. Public Safety (law enforcement, fire, emergency medical)
3. Economic Development
4. Technology
5. Parks

We now have a starting place in guiding our decision making process. The Strategic Plan is now ready for staff to develop goals and action plans.

The Township has adopted a \$7.7 million dollar general fund budget. With the number of Special Funds used to operate the Township, we have adopted a total budget of \$18,506,105.

Since our last issue of *The Profile*:

- The Art Van Sports Complex opened
- The Easton West Michigan Archery Center opened
- Rock City BMX Track opened
- The Meijer LPGA Classic presented by Kraft was held at Blythefield Country Club with national television coverage
- Nearly 600 people participated in the Michigan Titanium Triathlon
- This winter the sledding hill at Premier Park on 10 Mile will be open

You can keep updated on the Township happenings by visiting our website (www.plainfieldmi.org), or visiting our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PlainfieldTownship?ref=hl>). I would also be happy to discuss any issues or questions you might have. Feel free to contact me at (616) 951-1818 or email to Jay@PlainfieldSpencer.com.

Now let's go sledding on that new hill!

Jay Spencer, Township Supervisor

BEWARE OF MISLEADING SOLICITATION

It has come to our attention that the Plainfield Charter Township Fire Fighters Union has been soliciting money as a fundraiser. Please be advised that this fundraiser IS NOT SPONSORED BY, SANCTIONED OR APPROVED BY PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP. This is a fundraising event by a labor union. Be advised labor organizations are not charities and your donation may not be used for any charitable purposes. Likewise, the person who makes these phone solicitations is likely NOT a member of the fire department, but is a professional for-profit fundraiser.

According to the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Alert on police and fire solicitations, professional fundraisers for public safety groups KEEP AS MUCH AS 90% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION as compensation. Some fundraisers may use deceptive tactics to induce you to make a donation. They may imply you will be better protected if you make a donation. THIS IS BOTH UNTRUE AND ILLEGAL. They may thank you for previous donations, even if you never made any.

If you believe you have been misled or lied to or if you receive a bill for a pledge you did not make, you can file a complaint directly with the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Section at 1-800-769-4515. The link to Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Alert on police and fire solicitations is: http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-17337_18095-44607--,00.html.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS – SEE IF YOU QUALIFY

Plainfield Charter Township was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to implement a residential smoke alarm and home safety program for our residents. Over the next eleven months, the Plainfield Fire Department (PFD) will provide and install smoke alarms for Plainfield Charter Township residents who are considered members of a high-risk population. PFD firefighters will install both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms with a 10-year tamper proof battery per NFPA standards in homes where there are no smoke alarms and replace any that are 10 years or more old. Per FEMA guidelines, the department must install the detectors. Installation will take approximately 30 minutes, and you must be home. Firefighters will install smoke alarms using double sided tape and provide a safety survey of your home. This program is free to all homeowners in Plainfield Charter Township who meet the requirements of the program.

To participate, you must meet *one* of the following criteria:

- Live in a mobile home
- Live in a home built prior to 1975
- Someone living in your home is 65 or older
- Someone living in your home is 14 or younger
- Someone living in your home is hearing impaired

If you meet any one of the above criteria, please email us with your name, address and phone number to smokealarms@plainfieldmi.org. If you do not have access to email, you may call us at (616) 363-6651. After listening to a recorded message, you will be asked to leave your name, address and phone number. You will receive a call back to confirm eligibility and set up an appointment.

HAPPENINGS IN TOWNSHIP PARKS

FIVE YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN: The 5-Year Master Plan Survey is complete and the data has been processed. The consultant (Landscape Architects & Planners) is currently creating the rough draft that will be presented to the Township Board at a public hearing on 12/15/2014.

GRAND ISLE PARK (West River Drive): The wetland expansion is complete. Some trail work is in progress and the 18-hole disc golf course is being designed and constructed.



PREMIERE PARK (10-Mile Road): The Township's soccer fields are done and will be available for scheduling in 2015. The Easton West Michigan Archery Center is now open. Visit their website at: www.wmarchery.org. The Rock City BMX track is the place for non-motorized family bike sports for all ages with opportunities for open biking. Rock City also has instruction and membership opportunities. The facility will host local, regional and national BMX biking events. Visit the Rock City website at www.rockcitybmx.com for scheduling programs, events and contact information. The Merrell Mountain Bike Course is accessed from a dirt road west of the county transfer station and water tower. Information may be found at their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MerrellTrails>, or the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, www.mmba.org. The Township's sledding hill will be open this winter; located on the east side of the first soccer field. Please note that metal sleds and anything with metal runners ARE NOT ALLOWED.

FROM THE ASSESSING OFFICE



PROPERTY INFORMATION

We are rapidly moving towards Tax Day, December 31, 2014. That means whatever is on a property on that day will be the basis for the 2015 assessments. Personal Property Statements and the form 5076 will be mailed to all businesses in Plainfield Township the week of December 29. If you are filing the 5076, (Affidavit of

Owner of Eligible Personal Property Claiming Exemption from Collection of Taxes) it must be filed in our office by February 10, 2015. If you are filing the Personal Property Statement (632/L-4175) it must be in our office by February 1, 2015. Property assessment notices will be mailed mid- February and will indicate the dates of the March Board of Review.

At this time of year, our staff is out in the township conducting site visits for new construction permits. Township staff will have picture IDs with them. If you wish to review our assessment records you can do so by stopping in our office or visiting our website (www.plainfieldmi.org) and clicking on "Property Info" in the scroll down box on the home page or the *Property Information* box towards the bottom of the page. This information is free of charge.

Teresa Zimmerman, Assessor