



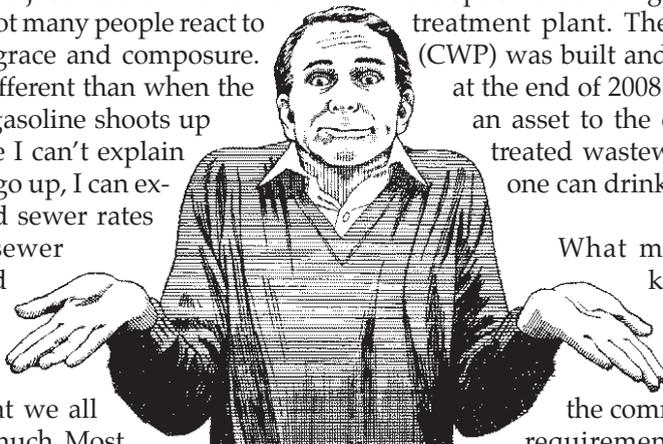
The Profile

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER 3

JULY 2011

Another increase in my sewer bill! Oo-oh! Don't you just hate it when that happens? Not many people react to cost increases with grace and composure. It's not that much different than when the price of a gallon of gasoline shoots up 20 or 30 cents. While I can't explain why gasoline prices go up, I can explain why water and sewer rates go up. Water and sewer rates, electricity and gas rates, telephone and cable TV rates are NOT taxes. They pay for products that we all need – or want very much. Most people do not think of government quite that way. This discussion focuses on sewer rates in Plainfield Township.

In 1999, the City of Grand Rapids and their "partners," whose communities grew and developed as extensions of the City's sewage disposal system, unveiled a new plan for continuing their relationship. Unlike most of the City's other sewer customers, Plainfield Township and the other communities in the North Kent Sewer System owned their own sewer collection systems and refused to be subject to the terms of the "new partnership." After concluding that we would not receive better treatment, the five



North Kent communities decided to pursue the option of building our own wastewater treatment plant. The Clean Water Plant (CWP) was built and became operational at the end of 2008. It doesn't stink; it is an asset to the community; and the treated wastewater is so clean that one can drink it!

What many people do not know, or may have forgotten, is this: We have avoided becoming subject to the community development requirements that would have been imposed on us by the "new" agreement with the City of Grand Rapids. The North Kent sewer customers avoided paying greatly increased sewer charges to the tune of over \$10 million from 1999 to 2008 – when our 40-year contract with the City of Grand Rapids expired.

After saving millions of dollars by refusing to "sign on," our average residential sewer customer's quarterly charges are lower than those of comparable customers in the City of Grand Rapids. They are *way* lower than comparable customers in Cascade and Grand Rapids Townships and in the City of Walker.

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How Quickly We Forget

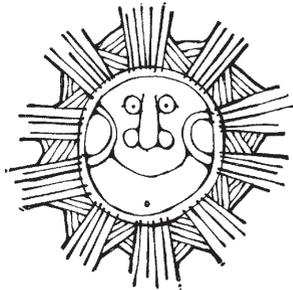
WE FORGET *continued from page 1*

Nevertheless, we must recognize that it costs money to build, develop, and maintain a reliable waste disposal system that achieves its main purposes – protecting public health and our fragile environment from our pollutants.

In 2003, under the old system (which has gone away – never to return), our typical residential customer was paying \$51 per quarter for sewage collection and treatment. This customer paid \$62, \$74, \$81, \$90, and \$99 per quarter in 2006, '07, '08, '10, and '11 respectively. At the end of 2005, we were committed to building the CWP, and we gradually ramped up our rates to achieve fiscal stability. That is where we stand now. The homebuilding slowdown over the last three years has hurt us on the revenue side, but we are meeting or “beating” our projections on the expenditure side. Had we done nothing and capitulated to Grand Rapids’ demands, our average customer would be paying anywhere from \$120 to \$140 per quarter.

Remember that, before our CWP went on line in 2008, after most heavy rainfall events in the area, Plainfield Township’s untreated wastewater ended up in the Grand River. That hasn’t happened for almost three years. Remember that Plainfield Township’s sewer customers would have been paying significant increases if we had signed on with Grand Rapids in 1999. Remember that when you flush your toilets, it doesn’t just magically disappear. As is also the case with our dependable and safe public water supply, these vital services are the backbone of our community. We have done well – and will continue to do well – by maintaining, repairing, and upgrading our sewer system and not letting it slide over to the other side of the ledger where these assets are neglected and under funded, needing huge revenue increases, outside assistance, and enforcement action by higher levels of government.

*Robert C. Homan, Township Manager
Plainfield Charter Township*



Fun in the Sun

During the winter months many of you came to the Office of the Clerk to apply for your passport. Most of the time the destination is somewhere warm and sunny. As summer has finally arrived, there is so much to do right here at home with no need for that passport. You can have a great day going to a Whitecaps ballgame, kayaking or canoeing the beautiful Rogue River, cooling off in Versluis Lake at our great park or visiting the Plainfield Township Farmers Market which is becoming one of those must-do destinations.

The Farmers Market opened with an outstanding performance by the Northview High School Jazz Ensemble on June 14th. New this

year at the market is a rating system for locally-grown produce. To obtain a 3 star rating, the farmer will need to grow almost all of what they sell, two stars is awarded to those who grow the majority of the produce they sell, and a 1 star rating is given to the vendor who grows some of the produce they sell. If you have any questions about where the produce is grown, ask the vendors.

We also are excited about the “**Discover You Can**” program.

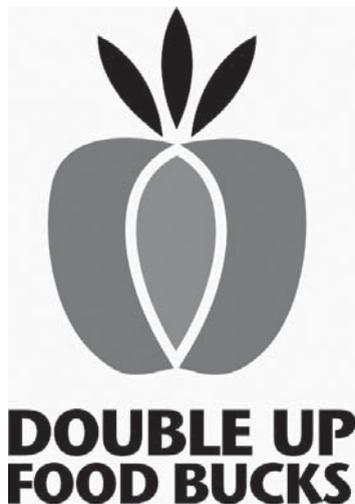


We received a grant from the makers of Ball canning jars to encourage people to preserve and enjoy locally-grown fruits and vegetables year round. Township residents Barb Brinkman and Christine Wernette are teaching a free "How To" canning class at the Farmers Market every Tuesday at 3 pm until Labor Day. There is a weekly drawing for a door prize of canning supplies! You can pick up your free "Beginner's Guide To Canning & Recipe Booklet" and canning supply discount coupons at the Farmers Market, the Plainfield Library on 5 Mile Road or at Town Hall in Belmont. Contact Scott Harvey at 364-8466 or by e-mail at harveys@plainfieldchartertwp.org with any questions about the Discover You Can program. We will also be partnering with the Plainfield Library and planning a demonstration there.

If you enjoy adventure, keep your eyes and ears open for the **scavenger hunt** that will be promoted by the library and include treasures to be found at the library and Farmers Market.

If you must travel outside of the United States this summer, **you can apply for your passport at the Farmers Market**. You can also follow the market on Facebook this year. The Northview Band that is traveling to Europe will entertain at the market just prior to their departure. There is also a rumor that there might be a Dunk Tank at the market just before school starts and the Township Clerk might be the first victim. Proceeds will benefit the Northview Band Boosters. I look forward to seeing you at the Farmers Market and at the Dunk Tank. The Band Boosters may be able to prove that it is a fact that some of the time, some of your elected officials are all wet!

We also have been given the **Double Up Bucks** grant for Bridge Card recipients. The first week the market opened we distributed over \$2,000 in Bridge Bucks and Double Up Bucks. We have already been awarded an additional \$15,000 grant from the Fair Food Network for distribution of Double Up Bucks. This foundation grant money helps provide nutritious local



fruits and vegetables to folks in this tough economy and provides a much-needed shot in the arm to our local farmers. The Discover You Can program will encourage the recipients of Double Up Bucks to preserve some of the food they purchase for use throughout the year.

After the conclusion of the Board meeting on June 6th, **Trustee Rebecca Borek presented her letter of resignation** from the Board. What a shock. Rebecca and I usually agreed on the important business brought before us to consider at the Board meetings. As a member of the Election Commission, she assisted in making sure the election process in the Township followed all of the election laws. As a member of the Personnel Committee she brought her professional business experience to insure quality policies were presented to the Board when changes were needed. She was very thoughtful and deliberate in her decision-making and truly showed a backbone when her convictions were challenged. Her integrity will be missed on the Board, but I will continue to be proud to call Becky a friend.

Summer is coming to Plainfield Township, it is a little late in arriving but **we expect a bountiful harvest**. Have a great summer and get ready for a very important Presidential Election year in 2012. Please consider volunteering to work as an election inspector. Forms are available at Township Hall or on the Township web page.

Scott Harvey, Clerk

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



2011 proved to be another “down” year in real estate values. Plainfield Township real properties decreased 3.44 percent overall. We are keeping a watchful eye on any legislation that could affect the taxpayers and property assessments.

If you live in one of our randomly selected areas for this summer’s neighborhood study, you may have already noticed our appraiser knocking on doors, talking with homeowners or leaving letters at individual homes. The State Tax Commission advises us to visit each property in the township on a five-year cycle. The purpose of this is to update our records for accu-

racy of record cards and correct them when necessary. Letting our appraiser inspect your property thoroughly will insure that we have correct information on file and avoid mistakes.

In keeping with safety and security procedures, all personnel from the Assessor’s Office will be carrying a picture ID and drive a marked Township vehicle in the residential areas. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please make sure you have filed a Principle Residence Exemption if you are a resident, or if you have moved to another location, that you have rescinded your existing exemption in Plainfield Township.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Construction Zones

During the construction seasons of 2011 and 2012, you are going to see more water and sewer construction projects



in Plainfield Charter Township than you have seen in past years. Thanks to an aggressive funding “Stimulus Package” provided by the State of Michigan, the Township took advantage of the offer and will save taxpayers approximately \$1.5

million dollars through the “principal forgiveness” portion of the program. The Township has an on-going five-year capital improvement plan, whereas portions of our aging water and sewer systems are scheduled in advance for repairs and/or replacement. The Township accelerated the timing on some of the projects in order to take advantage of the cost savings associated with the stimulus package.

By the time you read this article in the *Profile*, you may have experienced some of the slow-downs or detours as progress on these construction projects continues. I thank all drivers, who may have been inconvenienced, for your patience while traveling through the work zones.

On a safety note, the Township is experiencing an increased amount of vandalism and home invasions, as well as gang activity. I caution you to be more alert than ever of your everyday surroundings, at your home and as you travel the roads within the Township. If something doesn’t look quite right, chances are it isn’t right, and it should be investigated. Plainfield Township has always been, and still is, a great place to live, work and raise a family. However, with the economy the way it is, and with unemployment at an all-time high, people do things that they wouldn’t normally do. So, as a precautionary measure, be alert, be observant, be involved, be careful, and be safe.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

George K. Meek, Supervisor

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Veterans exempt from paying taxes...

Michigan law 211.7b states "Real estate used and owned as a homestead by a soldier or sailor who was discharged under honorable conditions with a service connected disability, and who has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying the soldier or sailor is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing, shall be exempt from taxation. To obtain the exemption, an affidavit, accompanied by the certificate, showing the facts required by this section and a description of the property, shall be filed with the supervisor or other assessing officer." The key is 'special adapted housing'. If the soldier or sailor dies, the exemption shall continue with the spouse as long as the spouse is not married. If you feel you are eligible, please contact the Treasurer or the Assessor.

2011 tax bill....

By now you should have received the 2011 summer tax bill, unless there is a pending July Board of Review appeal, with the due date of September 14, 2011. The summer taxes are for your local school district, Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids Community College and the State Education Tax.

Summer tax deferments....

If your household income for 2010 was less than \$40,000.00, you may be able to defer pay-

ment of your Summer taxes till February 14, 2012, without any penalties being charged if you met either of the following conditions: over 61 years of age, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceman, blind or a disabled person. The deferment must be renewed annually.

Credit Cards...

The ability to pay your taxes or any payment to the Township using a credit card is on the horizon. The delay in implementing the use of credit cards is due to a fee added to the amount due which the Township is not going to absorb. The normal fee is around 3% of the billed amount. I have been looking for a vendor that will offer a reasonable fee if not free. Stay tuned!

Partial payments...

I am encouraging the taxpayer to make **PAR-TIAL** payments if the full amount cannot be paid. The software used for processing tax payments allows up to 30 partial payments. Whatever you can pay by the due date reduces the amount of late fee that you pay. If your finances are tight, please make partial payments.

Visit us on the Township website, www.painfieldchartertp.org, email me at stoverj@painfieldchartertp.org or call me at 726-8892.

Have a great summer!

Jim Stover Treasurer, CPFA, MiCPT

Hyser Rivers Museum Schedule Curtailed

Due to MDOT'S reconstruction of the Rogue River bridge adjacent to The Hyser Museum, the Historical Committee will not be able to host its regular openings in July or August. We are hopeful that the construction will be complete enough for the museum to resume its regular schedule by October.

We will hold our regular Historical Committee meeting schedule, but the meetings will take place at the Plainfield Charter Township Hall, not at the museum. Anyone is welcome to join us at these meetings. You might find that you would like to become a member of the committee!

Our Historical Committee meetings for July through September, to be held at Township Hall, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, are:

July 26, 2011, 3 pm • August 23, 2011, 3 pm • September 27, 2011, 3 pm

Regular Museum hours are 2-4 pm on the first Sunday of the month to be resumed in October.

Take advantage of free Computer Confidence Classes for Adults at KDL – no matter what your skill level. Check www.kdl.org or call 616-784-2007 for a complete list of classes and information.

Attention Readers of all Ages! Summer Reading Clubs at KDL run Monday, June 13 to Saturday, August 6.

One World, Many Stories – Summer Reading Club for Kids grade 5 and under, both readers and pre-readers. See the world @ your library! Win a new bike and other great prizes. For parents and babies 18th months and young, try something new this year: Baby Bingo!

You are Here – Summer Reading Club for Teens. Go where the compass points and enjoy a global reading experience. Read for your chance to win a \$100 mall gift certificate and other prizes.

Novel Destinations – Summer Reading Club for Adults. Read for a chance to win great prizes like books, gift cards and even a Barnes & Noble Nook Color eReader! Let reading take you to a novel destination this summer.

No matter how old you are, this summer you can Take Katie on Vacation! Katie L., our elephant friend, loves to travel the world and this summer she'd like to take a trip with you! Go to any branch or visit www.kdl.org to find out how to take Katie on vacation and share with us your Katie L. vacation photo.

Bring the family to free programs all summer long! To register, logon to www.kdl.org, or call the library.

For Young Children and Families...

Baby Time. Delight and stimulate your baby with songs, a story and playtime. Get to know other families and help your baby develop listening and language skills. For babies from birth to 18 months with a caregiver. Plainfield – Wednesdays, 1:30 pm, June 15 - July 27.

Toddler Time. Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories, while helping to develop their language, mo-



tor and social skills. For children 3 and under and their caregivers. Comstock Park – Mondays 10:30 am, June 20 - July 25 (except July 4). Plainfield – Tuesdays, 10:15 am from June 14 - July 26 and Thursdays, 10:15 am, June 16 - July 28.

Storytime. Preschoolers enjoy stories, rhymes, music, movement and more as they build their early literacy skills and develop a love of reading. For children ages 3 to 6. Comstock Park – Mondays, 10:30 am, June 20 - July 25 (except July 4). Plainfield – Tuesdays, 10:15 am from June 14-July 26 and Thursdays, 10:15 am, June 16 - July 28.

Family Storytime. Share books, stories, thymes, music and movement as a family; develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 and under, with a caregiver. Plainfield – Mondays, 10:15 am, June 13 - July 25 (except July 4).

Around the World Easy as 1 2 3! Young children love to count! Explore new cultures with stories, songs, and crafts that celebrate counting around the world. Plainfield – Monday, July 25, 10:15 am.

Pajama Storytime. Bring your teddy bear or other snuggly friend; pajamas optional! Comstock Park – Monday, August 1, 10:30 am.

Early Literacy Make & Take. Kids, bring your parents and spend some quality time together making crafts which support each of the six pre-reading skills. All materials are provided. Plainfield – Monday, August 1, 10:15 am. Comstock Park – Monday, August 8, 10:30 am.

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

For School-Aged Children, Ages 6 and up...

Games Around the World. Learn how to play games from different countries and then make your own games to take home! Comstock Park – Tuesday, August 2, 1:00 pm. Plainfield – Thursday, August 4, 6:30 pm.

Ruff Readers. A unique read-aloud program that pairs kids with trained therapy dogs who love to hear a good story. Call 616-784-2007 to register for a 15-minute session. Presented in partnership with the West Michigan Therapy Dog Association. Plainfield – Mondays, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, June 13 - August 1. Comstock Park – Thursdays, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, July 7 to July 28.

For Families...

One World, Many Places Scavenger Hunt. Come to the library for six weeks of around-the-world fun! Each week, a new clue will be revealed to help you complete your KDL passport and win a fun prize. Plainfield – Monday, June 27-Saturday, August 6.

Wazobia. Hear the beat! Feel the rhythm of Africa! You won't sit still for this program full of percussion play and dance. Plainfield – Thursday, July 14, 6:30 pm.

Beyond Magic with Magician Tom Plunkard. Amazing magic, including many tricks and silly stories. Comstock Park – Tuesday, July 19, 1:00 pm.

John Ball's Traveling Zoo. Animals across the world have unusual or interesting physical

and behavioral characteristics that make them WILDLY fun to learn about, and John Ball Zoo wants to spread the word. Plainfield – Thursday, July 21, 6:30 pm

Summer Carnival. Celebrate summer! Celebrate reading! Join us for games, crafts, prizes and tons of carnival-style fun! Sponsored by the Friends of the Plainfield Library. Comstock Park – Thursday, July 26, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Plainfield – Thursday, July 28, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

And just for Teens...

(registration required: check www.kdl.org, or call the library):

Juggling Workshop with Gerry Bose. Have fun while you learn basic manipulations and other skills that teach the art of juggling. Comstock Park – Thursday, July 14, 2:00 pm.

Nintendo Wii for Teens. Show off your Wii skills or learn some new Wii tricks with friends. Plainfield – Tuesday, July 19, 6:30 pm.

Minute to Win It! Join us for KDL's version of this popular game show and you'll have your chance to complete challenges similar to those in the show! Plainfield – Tuesday, July 26, 6:30 pm.

Steam Punk Junque. Create edgy, indie jewelry with materials from the hardware store. Make a keychain, necklace, bracelet, or earrings from unexpected materials. Plainfield – Tuesday, August 2, 6:30 pm.

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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

**Kent District Library Presents:
KDLville: Play, Grow, Read
at the Plainfield Township Library on
Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30pm.!**

It's party time! Celebrate with Katie L. the elephant on Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30 pm as she cuts the ribbon and welcomes you to KDLville, KDL's new early literacy play space at the Plainfield Township Library. Families with children ages 6 and under are invited to have fun with crafts, games, balloon animals, face painting, and a dance party. And what's a party without dessert? Come enjoy a piece of our special KDLville cake!

KDLville is an interactive early literacy learning center where young children and their caregivers can play, grow, and read. The space will contain a variety of fun and developmentally appropriate activities that focus on different skills that will help children get ready to read. Some examples might include a puppet theater, a play grocery store, a train table, pre-writing games, etc. The activities will be rotated so patrons will get fresh experiences every couple of months. Promotional materials that contain caregiver education on reading readiness will also be provided in the play spaces. Coming soon (in early 2012) to the Comstock Park branch, too!

Friends of the Plainfield Library

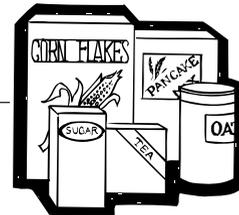
Recently purchased for the library were plants and decorative items to give the patrons a more "homey" quiet place to enjoy a time of relaxation, reading, and use of the computers or just browsing. Two new outdoor benches and a planter purchased in memory of a former volunteer have been installed for relaxing and reading.

Friends of the Library continue to raise funds with their on-going book sales in the Book Nook and kiosk, plus fund raisers to pay for new furnishings and programs for the community. This non-profit group of volunteers welcomes your donations of gently used books, CDs, videos and albums for these on-going sales. To become a member of this group and receive great perks, applications are available at the library.

Upcoming fundraising events:

Used Book Sale – September 9th-12th (Friday - Monday); check the library website or call the library at 784-2007 for more information on times.

Home-Based Business and Craft Sales – October 29th (Saturday - 9:30 am - 2:30 pm) with Silent Auction Baskets and Bake Sale. (15th Year!) Call the library at 784-2007 for information.



**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 **September 1, 2011**. We are running extremely low on boxes for distribution, so please bring a few bags or a box for the next distribution. □

The remaining date for distribution in 2011 is 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. Please be sure to bring picture ID's, Social Security cards and proof of income for all members of your family. You must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road.



Township Cemetery Advisory Committee Established

The Plainfield Charter Township Board has established a Cemetery Advisory Committee. The Committee will consider the financing, operation, equipment and maintenance needs of the Township cemeteries, and make recommendations regarding long term planning for the Township cemeteries. The Committee's purpose is to keep the Township Board apprised of the condition and functioning of Township cemetery facilities, equipment, and operations by visiting the cemeteries, consulting with building and grounds staff, and receiving input from citizens and users of the cemeteries. The Township Board has appointed Jim Stover (Township Treasurer), Chuck Weldon (Township Trustee), Judge Kathleen Feeney, Brenda Carson, Johanna Vander Wall, Steve Ayres and Art Spalding to serve on the Committee.

The Committee met for the first time in May. Future meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 12:15 pm in the Board Room of the Township Hall and are open to the public.

The third Wednesday in August of each year is designated as "cemetery day" by state statute and is set aside as a day upon which people in the township may devote a portion of their

time to the improvement of the cemeteries. The Township Board will direct the manner of making such improvements. The Cemetery Advisory Committee plans to devote time for such purpose on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm. Because of the short planning time available, the residents of the Township are invited to come to the Plainfield Cemetery, located near Packer and Rogue River Road, to inspect the Cemetery and to improve individual gravesites.

September 30 is also annually set apart and designated as a "Memory Day." A Memory Day is to be used for the purpose of improving and beautifying the cemeteries and the graves located in the cemeteries so that the residents can show a loving and tender remembrance for the dead. The Cemetery Advisory Committee intends to recognize a Memory Day on Friday, September 30, 2011. Further information will be available soon on the Township website at www.plainfieldchartertp.org.

Plainfield Charter Township is responsible for the Plainfield Cemetery and the Oakwood Cemetery which is located near Brewer and Cannonsburg Road. Both of these cemeteries have been established for more than 100 years. The Township Board invites your interest in these cemeteries and hopes that residents appreciate the Township's effort in maintaining them for your benefit.

*James Stover, Chairman
Cemetery Advisory Committee*

PLAINFIELD FD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Are you ready for the challenge? Are you a motivated individual with a clean driving record, no criminal history, who is physically fit, and a non-tobacco user? You may have a future as a Paid-On-Call (POC) firefighter with the Plainfield Fire Department. Being a firefighter for the Plainfield Fire Department is a rewarding and life-changing experience. But to earn the title of Firefighter, you must put forth great commitment. Eligible applicants are required to have Firefighter I/II certification or to complete recruit training starting in September and running through March (Monday and Thursday evenings with Saturdays periodically). You can see what is involved in becoming a member of our team and print an application by visiting www.plainfieldfire.org.

Being a member of the fire department is not for everyone, but there are many personal rewards. If you have an interest in helping your community and think you would enjoy the excitement of belonging to the fire department and the satisfaction of helping your community, now is the time to check us out. Applications received before August 1st will be able to be processed and included in the fall class (we are required to submit names well in advance of the first class on September 29th).

One of the rewards of being the fire chief is that occasionally I get to pass on good news to our members. I was recently able to recommend Kyle Svoboda for appointment as a full time firefighter. Kyle, who started fulltime on July 1, was one of several people who were tested

and interviewed by a panel of fire service professionals. 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.

What can you as a homeowner do to minimize your risk from fire and assist first responders in an emergency?

- Make sure that your address is clearly posted
- Have adequately 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.
- Don't waste time collecting possessions after a fire starts. Alert all occupants and leave the building. Your most valuable possession is your life.
- If you live on a private drive, make sure that it is wide enough to allow fire department access, and 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. **NEVER** re-enter a burning building. Keep your family in a pre-arranged meeting place after your escape.

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

Prevent Burn Injuries

Young children and older adults have thinner skin. They burn more quickly.

You Should Do This:

- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees F.
- Put in a special tub spout and shower head that will shut off the water if it gets too hot.
- Test the water before your child gets into the tub.
- When you carry your child, don't carry a hot drink too.
- Keep hot drinks away from the edge of the counter or table.
- If you burn your skin, cool it with cool water for 3-5 minutes. Do this right away.
- Do not put ice, butter, or lotion on the burn.
- If the burn looks bad, see your doctor or call 911.

Teach Your Children To:

- Get help from a grownup if they get a burn.
- Let a grownup turn on cool water to cool the burn.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Summer is here and during those hot days, we will be looking for relief from the heat. Everyone loves to get relief by swimming, sitting, or wading in swimming pools. Thankfully, there are a number of private portable swimming pools that are relatively inexpensive, fairly deep, and have their own filter system. Swimming pools come with a responsibility to ensure the safety of our children. An accidental drowning cannot only happen in lakes and ponds, but also in private swimming pools. We must do everything that we can to prevent this from happening, and one way is to make sure that the swimming pools are not freely accessible to little children.

This brings us to the proper safety requirements for swimming pools, whether portable or fixed. The Michigan Residential Building Code requires that any structure (swimming pool) intended for swimming and bathing that is capable of holding over 24 inches of water is required to have a 4-foot high barrier around it that is not climbable and has a self closing and latching gate that swings out away from the pool. With the popularity of the blow up pools or portable pools, there is a definite increase to the possibility of yet another child drowning. Please do your part by abiding by these rules, and take the necessary steps to protect our children. Lastly, please be aware that a building electrical permit may be required for a swimming pool. If you have any questions or need advice regarding permits, Building Services can be contacted at 364-1190.

Building Services - Community Development Department

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
Jack Hagedorn, Trustee
Vic Matthews, Trustee
Charles Weldon, Trustee



MANAGER
Robert Homan

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS
7:30 pm
First and Third Mondays

www.plainfieldchartertpw.org

Vets Remembered

The annual Memorial Day recognition program held on May 30, at the Veterans Memorial Park located at the intersection of Belmont Avenue and Jupiter Avenue, was well attended with close to 150 spectators. Pastor Jeff Williams gave the invocation that set the tone of Memorial Day, Tim Cooper sang the national anthem, and State Representative for the 73rd district, Peter MacGregor, was the featured speaker.

Other participants in the program included the American Legion Color Guard Squad #258, Boy Scout Troop #238, and Cub Scout Troop #33283. Chris Wiersum sang "God Bless America" and closing remarks were made by Plainfield Township Supervisor George Meek.

The next recognition program will be held at the park on Veterans Day, November 11, 2011, at 7:00 pm.