

The Profile

VOLUME XXXV NUMBER 3

JUNE 2010

Plainfield Charter Township's Water Department was recently awarded "The Utility of the Year 2010" and Don Petrovich, Plant Superintendent, received recognition as the "Operator of the Year" by the Michigan Rural Water Association. The Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) is devoted to enhancing the quality of water service through the networking of statewide water professionals. The association provides its members with valuable continued education programs that are vital to municipal utilities operating in a cost effective and efficient manner. In addition, the MRWA annually recognizes the municipal service of Village/City Managers, Mayors, Clerks, Treasurers, Wastewater Operators, Rookie Opera-

tors, Wastewater Utility, both Man and Woman of the Year and an award for Exemplary Efforts in Environmental Protection.

Michigan Rural Water Association Honors Water Department

The MRWA awards municipalities based on populations served. Plainfield Charter Township is "Utility of the Year 2010 Over 15,000 Population." The Water Department received this honor for receiving industry awards of excellence for Consumer Confidence Reports, the Township's Wellhead Protection Program and innovative improvements to infrastructure. Recent cost effective improvements included rehabilitations Rockhill Pump Station and collector wells located on the east side of the water plant and a water system com-



Don Petrovich is flanked by officials of the MRWA

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Water Department Award from page 1

munication switch from radio phone lines to radio telemetry. The switch enhanced vital system communication of five booster stations and twelve water storage tanks to the water plant saving the department \$30,000 per year.

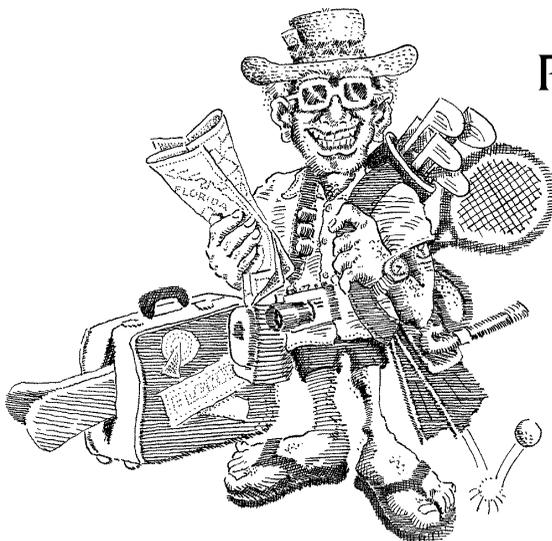
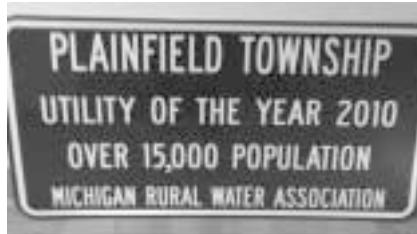
Don Petrovich was recognized for his 32 years of dedicated service to Plainfield Charter Township. Don currently holds F1 Plant Operator and S3 Distribution Operator certifications by the State of Michigan. Don started his water career as a plant operator in 1977 and has honed his abilities through a strong work ethic and professionalism. These qualities were instrumental in his becoming the Water Plant Superintendent in 2007.

The Michigan Rural Water Association awarded Petrovich "Water Operator of the Year" because he played a vital role in the innovative infrastructure improvements and the yearly preparation of the Consumer Confidence Report along with serving as the Chair of the Wellhead Protection Program Committee and Insurance Committee. The township

received industry awards because of his leadership role. He represents the township with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNRE) along with local businesses and residents. The insurance committee was instrumental in reducing costs for the employee health insurance program for 2010. He welcomes groups and individuals and serves as personal guide for water plant tours. This is his favorite part of community service and many local schools tour annually. He was proud to give a tour to State Senator Mark Jansen, who represents Plainfield Township in Lansing. Don and his staff are always available to residents to address their concerns about water quality.

Plainfield Township would like to acknowledge and congratulate Don and all the water professionals for our water plant and distribution system, and for their continued dedication as our community's water purveyor. The staff of 17 includes two administration professionals, six water plant operators and nine distribution system operators.

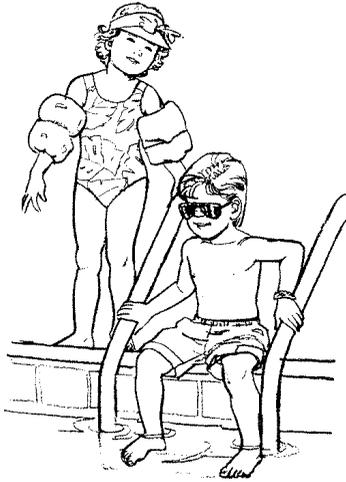
Mary Trapp



Passport Day in July!

July 31, 2010, from 9 am –3 pm
Plainfield Charter Township Offices
6161 Belmont Ave, Belmont

Plainfield Township is a one-stop shop for accepting your passport application. Bring your driver's license, original birth certificate and your checkbook or cashiers check and processing your application should take about 10 minutes.



Swimming Pool Safety

climbable and has a self-closing and latching gate that swings away from the pool. With the popularity of the blow-up pools, or portable pools, there is a definite increase in the possibility of children drowning. Let's take the necessary steps to protect our children by abiding by these rules. If you have any questions about this, call Building Services – Community Development Department at 364-1190.

Summer is almost here! Many people love to get relief by swimming, sitting, or wading in swimming pools. Thankfully, there are a number of portable swimming pools that are relatively inexpensive, fairly deep, and have their own filter systems. However, with pool ownership comes a responsibility to ensure the safety of our children. Accidental drownings not only happen in lakes and ponds, but also in private swimming pools. We must do everything possible to prevent this from happening, and one way is to make sure that the swimming pools are not easily accessible to little children.

The Michigan Residential Building Code states that a building permit is required for any structure holding over 24 inches of water and intended for swimming and bathing. The code also requires that an electrical permit must be obtained if the pool has a pump and filter system. Also, very importantly, the swimming pool is required to have a 4-foot high barrier around it that is not

Farmers Market

Tuesdays & Thursdays
2pm-7pm

June 15-
October 14

Please join us again
this summer for Plainfield
Township's second annual
Farmers Market! 4411 Plainfield
Ave. in the Frontline Church
parking lot. The market opens
June 15th! Hope to see you
there!

Election Information

Upcoming Election Dates

August 3, 2010 –
Primary Election
(last day to register is July 6)

November 2, 2010 –
General Election
(last day to register is October 4)

The Michigan Secretary of State website is a great resource for election information such as a list of candidates, state-wide ballot proposals, election dates, absentee voting, voter registration, etc. Go to www.michigan.gov/sos and on the left side of the page you will want to select the *Elections in Michigan* tab, then you may choose your area of interest from the menu on the left. You may also visit www.michigan.gov/vote.

Keep in mind that the primary and general elections experience a large turnout of voters, so please anticipate a busy precinct with the possibility of a short wait and don't forget your photo ID.

Picture ID is REQUIRED in order to vote
Voter identification requirements are in effect. Every Michigan voter who wishes to vote in the polls must comply with the requirement by showing a picture ID or signing an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of a picture ID. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/vote.

Application for Absent Voter (AV) Ballots for both the 2010 primary and general election have been combined on a dual application. You

may elect to receive an AV ballot for one or both of the elections scheduled in 2010. AV Applications and ballots will be available no later than June 19, 2010 for the August primary.

If you are not on the Permanent Absentee Voter List and wish to get an AV ballot application, you can obtain an application in person at the Plainfield Township Clerk's office located at the Township Hall or by contacting Stephanie at 726-8884.

Electronic Poll Books

You may notice something new at the polls starting with the August primary election. Plainfield Township will be implementing E-Poll Books. The E-Poll Book will allow precinct officials to check voters in with a scan of their **driver's license** or **ID card**. Going from paper-based to an electronic system speeds up voter check-in, improves accuracy, and helps expedite election night returns.

The Secretary of State has successfully piloted the E-Poll Book program in 2008 and is now implementing it statewide.

Stephanie McMillen, Deputy Clerk

Belmont Road Improvement Project Cancelled

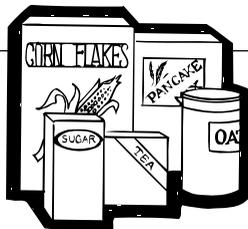
The June 2009 Issue of *The Profile* carried a lead article featuring the planned improvements to Belmont Road, scheduled for the summer of 2010. The Township Board had approved and pledged \$200,000 in April of 2009 to supplement another \$300,000 of Kent County Road Commission funding that would leverage federal funds of about \$900,000 for a \$1,400,000 project that was to include a center turn lane for the length of the project from the intersection of Jupiter and Belmont to Post Road.

Due primarily to strong opposition from the adjacent property owners and their opposition to the turning lane, on April 19, the Township Board voted 4-3 to rescind the Township's pledge of \$200,000. As a result, the Kent County Road Commission cancelled the project, and reprogrammed the federal funds to other projects in their system to assure that the federal funds could be utilized on area projects this construction season rather than risk losing the funds to other jurisdictions. The project as designed by the Road Commission,

would have provided needed drainage for the area, new standardized road base material, curb and gutter, completion of sidewalks on both sides of the road for the mile-long project, two thru lanes at 11-foot wide, a center turn lane 10-foot wide with pedestrian islands at both schools and the White Pine Trail, and paved shoulders/bike lanes at 4-foot wide on both sides. The pavement, from curb to curb, would have been 42 feet wide.

Observing that this year's revenue for the Kent County Road Commission's budget is at the 1999 level, federal funds are almost a necessity to reconstruct the road as the Road Commission feels necessary. Some have expressed that a simple resurfacing would be sufficient, but the Road Commission is of the opinion that the underlying substandard base and lack of proper drainage would result in a short life for any resurfacing. Until future funding is available to achieve the improvements the Road Commission feels are appropriate, they will continue to maintain the road in the best condition possible as they have in the past.

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Commodity Distribution from River Grove

Commodities will be 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.

Dates for distribution during 2010 are **June 3, September 2 and December 2.**

To qualify, you must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road.

New families wishing to qualify may call Jim or Peg Granzotto, at 784-5249, or come to the distribution site on the above date. Bring Social Security cards for each member of your family along with income statements.

Jim Granzotto, manager

Marhaba, Ni Hao, Bonjour, Hallo, Namaste, Ciao, Konnichiwa, Ahnyong, Ola, Privet, Hola, Hello: **KDL can help you learn to speak a different language!**

One of the new additions to the www.kdl.org database section is called Mango Languages. Mango features a wide range of language learning options—22 in all, from Arabic to Russian to Vietnamese. Some of these only feature an introductory course, but others have a more thorough course of instruction. In addition to these options, there is also an instruction database for ESL (English as a second language) learners, 15 in all, for speakers of French, Chinese and Spanish, to name a few. Finally, a great feature of Mango is the ability to start a lesson, log out, and then resume later where you left off. Creating an account is simple; all you need is an e-mail address and user name. As always, in order to use this tool (from home or the library), you must have a **KDL library card**. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call the library at 784-2007.

Make a Splash—READ@ your Library. Splash, Splash, Summer Reading's a blast. Sign up for **Summer Reading Club** and enjoy an ocean of fun. For kids grades 5 and under, all readers and pre-reachers. The club runs Monday, June 14th until Saturday, August 7.

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 16 – July 25.

Toddler Time. Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories, while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For children 3 and under and their caregivers.

Comstock Park – Mondays 10:30 am, June 28–July 26 (except July 5).

Plainfield – Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, June 15–July 27 and Thursdays 10:15 am, June 17–July 29

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 at 10:30 am, June 28–July 26 (except July 5).

Plainfield – Tuesdays 1:30 pm, June 15–July 27 and Thursdays, 10:15 am, June 17–July 29

Family Storytime. Share books, stories, thymes, music and movement as a famiy; develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 and under, with a caregiver.

Plainfield – Mondays at 10:15 am, June 14–July 26 (except July 5).

For Ages 6 and Up....

Ruff Readers. A unique read-aloud program that pairs kids with trained therapy dogs who love to hear a good story. Call to register for a 15-minute session. Presented in partnership with the West Michigan Therapy Dog Association.

Plainfield – Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm, June 14–August 2.

Comstock Park – Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, June 17–July 8.

For All Ages...

Summer Carnival. Celebrate summer! Celebrate reading! Join us for games, crafts, prizes, and tons of carnival-style fun! For children of all ages and their families.

Comstock Park – Tuesday, July 13, 2-4 pm

Plainfield – Thursday, June 17, 4-6 pm

KDL Puppeteers present “Mr. Biddle’s Noisy Night,” an interactive puppet play with other participation activities. Best for ages 4 and up.

Comstock Park – Monday, June 21, 10:30 am

Plainfield – Tuesday, June 29, 1:30 pm

Flying Aces. Whiz in for this informative and humorous demonstration of the spectacular athletic skills of the Flying Aces Professional Frisbee Team!

Comstock Park – Tuesday, June 29, 2:00 pm

Plainfield – Thursday, July 1, 6:30 pm

Wildlife Safari. Go wild with the Animal Guy and encounter exotic animals from around the world!

Comstock Park – Tuesday, June 22, 2:00 pm

Plainfield – Thursday, July 15, 6:30 pm

SURFari Juggling Show with Joel Tacey. Be ready to laugh as versatile entertainer Joel Tacey presents a comedy and juggling show for the whole family.

Comstock Park – Tuesday, July 20, 2:00 pm

Plainfield – Thursday, July 8, 6:30 pm

Lego Family Block Party. Drop-in and make your own special Lego or Duplo creations. All materials are provided by the Library.

Plainfield – Wednesday, June 16, 2-3 pm

Splash & Spray with Skippy & Dave! This program will include beach, water, and surf songs (performed by ventriloquist Dave Parker and his “friend” Skippy).

Plainfield – Thursday, June 24, 6:30 pm

Beyond Magic with Magician Tom Plunkard.

This high-impact magic show is loaded with new tricks.

Plainfield – Thursday, July 22, 6:30 pm

Storyteller Adam Mellema. Get ready for a wacky, watery, whiz-bang collection of stories!

Plainfield – Thursday, July 29, 6:30 pm

KDL Fund Presents Tunes for Tots! with Frank Leto. Get your family jamming with this popular children’s musician.

Plainfield – Thursday, August 5, 6:30 pm

And just for teens...

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

Make Waves @ Your Library Teen Reading

Raffle – at all KDL branches. Dive into the library for a summer full of books, prizes, and programs just for teens. Each branch will raffle off awesome prizes, including a mall gift certificate. Runs Monday, June 14th until Saturday, August 7th.

Teen Volunteers. We’re looking for a few good teens (ages 13-18) to volunteer at the library this summer. Stop by the Plainfield Branch Information Desk to pick up an application. Applications are due June 5th. Orientation will be the first week of June.

Rock Band for Teens. Tap into your Rock & Roll fantasy as you form a band and tour for fame and fortune in Rock Band.

Plainfield – Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 pm

Karate with Robert Giles. Giles Sensei will teach the traditional style of Karate Martial Arts with a focus on self-defense.

Comstock Park – Thursday, July 8, 6:30 pm

Plainfield – Tuesday, June 22, 6:30 pm

continued on the next page

PLAINFIELD BRANCH HOURS

2650 5-Mile Road NE

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

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



*programs continued
from the previous page*

Ice Cream Social. Mix it up with some tasty frappes or sundaes. Bring a friend and design your own creamy creations.

Plainfield – Tuesday, June 29, 6:30 pm

Guitar Hero & DDR. It's a rhythm-packed event whatever you do as you move and groove to Dance, Dance, Revolution and Guitar Hero.

Plainfield – Tuesday, July 6, 6:30 pm

Jewelry-Making with Cindy Burkle. Make an "Even Count Peyote Bracelet."

Plainfield – Tuesday, July 13, 6:30 pm

Nintendo Wii @ Your Library. Show off your Wii skills or learn some new Wii tricks with friends.

Plainfield – Tuesday, July 20, 6:30 pm

Our informal Adult Book Discussions are a great way to meet new people and share your love of books and reading. Ask at your branch library to get a copy of the next books, and join us any time!

Comstock Park – The 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

Friends of the Plainfield Library

The Friends of the Library are a 501C(3) nonprofit group that continues to support the library by raising funds that provide extra income. This income sponsors programs and furnishings for the library to make it user-friendly and give it a warm and welcoming atmosphere for ALL.

We thank all of you who continue to donate good, used items to sell in the Book Nook and

in our sales that are held throughout the year. The meetings for the group are the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the lower level of the library. (An elevator is available.) For a very nominal fee, you may become a member and share in some great perks. Meetings are not mandatory, but networking ideas for fundraisers and meeting new people is worth your time.

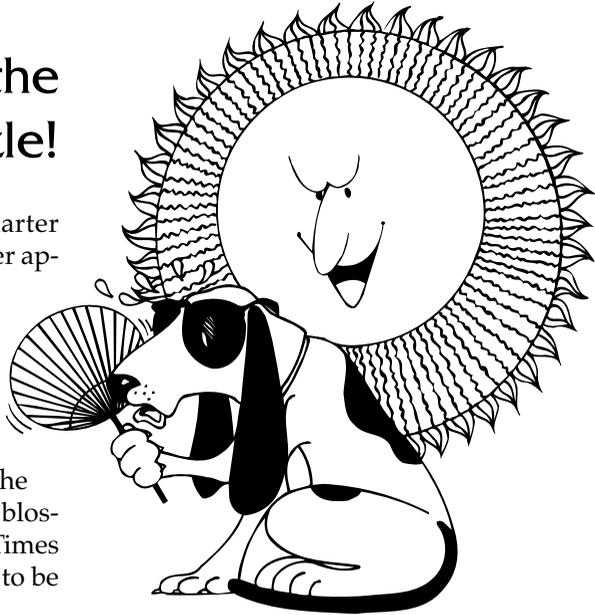
Upcoming Programs – mark your calendars for the following:

June 5	Mini book sale	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
September 10-13	Used Book Sale	
October 9	Pancake Breakfast (all you can eat) At Applebee's on the E. Beltline. Adults: \$5.00; Kids: \$3.00	8:00 am – 10:00 am
October 30	Home-Based Sales, Crafts with Bake Sale and Silent Auction – auction items on display October 23-30.	9:30 am – 2:30 pm

For further information regarding the Friends group and all upcoming programs, please visit the library at 2650 Five Mile Road NE, or call (616) 647-3930. Please consider joining this group of dedicated people who enjoy working for YOUR library.

Getting Ready for the Summer Sizzle!

I see great opportunities in the Charter Township of Plainfield as the summer approaches. There is remodeling going on in our newly created Commercial Rehabilitation District on Plainfield Avenue. We have new houses being built throughout the township. There will be a new restaurant and sports bar on Post Road near the U.S. 131 exit and the Plainfield Township Farmers Market has blossomed into a two-day-a-week market. Times are still tough for many, but there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel.



There will be a very interesting and important Primary Election held on August 3, 2010. There are openings for both the United States Congressional and State of Michigan Representatives, precinct delegates, and there may be significant ballot proposals. The election held on May 4, 2010 had an impressive turn out in the precincts of the Northview School District. It was great to see the voters turn out and cast their votes, many of whom were first time voters!

The Farmers Market will be open beginning June 15 and will run through October 14 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 PM until 7 PM. The Frontline Community Church has once again allowed the community to enjoy this market on their site. There are many new vendors this year with a great variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, organic produce, meat, eggs, bread, milk, and many new prepared foods and delicious treats to eat at the market or to take with you. Many artisans will be back selling their hand-made items and there are a few surprises in the works. Our market has a

capacity of 98 spaces, and vendors have already reserved 70 of these for the entire season. The Plainfield Passport Office will be open during the market days until 7 PM for the convenience of anyone needing to purchase or renew a passport.

It is also a pleasure to report that Passport Day, held on Saturday, May 1, 2010, provided 44 citizens the opportunity to apply for their passports. We will be holding Passport Saturdays again on July 31 and October 30. If you have a large group of people planning on traveling outside of the United States, our Passport Office will be glad to make arrangements to come to your location outside of normal business hours and process the applications at your convenience. Please contact me (616) 364-8466 if you have a need for the remote Passport Office to help with your travel needs.

Have a Great Summer, and I hope to see you at the Farmers Market!

Be a Courteous Driver

My article for this *Profile* issue was prompted by a question to me, and a subsequent discussion, by a woman concerned about all the road repairs



going on now or that will be starting soon, all at the same time in the greater Grand Rapids area. Her question was simply, "Why all at the same time?" She explained that it is very difficult to get anywhere in our area with out

running into closed roads or detours that take a person out of their way without a properly marked detour, or a detour that really doesn't make sense to the average driver.

My answer is that in Michigan, we only have a limited amount of time and good weather to complete construction projects, therefore projects must be done all at the same time (or it seems like the same time) in order to have them completed by fall. I don't like the detours and closures any more than the next person does, but we surely need the repairs and improvements, and I'm happy to see the money

being spent in our area instead of the majority of the funding going to the east side of the state.

Now, regarding the "COURTEOUS DRIVER" in the article heading: closures, detours, and traffic back-ups lead to time delays, and time delays lead to frustrations, flaring tempers and maybe even fits of road rage. We live in a very fast-paced world and people are geared for the fast lane of life. An interruption sets their adrenalin into action, causing them to do things they wouldn't normally do. Coming upon a closed road or an unadvertised detour, with a long line of traffic backed up for blocks when you are running late, can be the catalyst to activate one's temper.

My message is this: Be mindful of all circumstances and other people. Everyone has urgencies of one kind or another. The next person's problems may be worse than yours. Be respectful of others you encounter and be a courteous driver.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

George Meek, Supervisor

Every year about this time, the Township Manager begins the process of developing the following year's budget for all of the Township's functions. While it may seem a bit early for something that isn't required to be completed until December 31, the complexity of the process, the legal requirements, and the continuing difficulties all local governments have been facing in the past sev-

Township Begins Budget

eral years with declining revenues from the state and now from local property taxes make this effort a high and immediate priority.

I am about to receive the austere budget requests from department heads within a few days. Then, after assembling and reviewing what they submit, I have scheduled a meeting

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Exempt from paying taxes...

In recent years, taxpayers have asked if there was a means to have their taxes waived due to financial difficulty. The only means available is to be eligible for a Hardship Exemption. The Assessor processes this exemption. If you are interested, please call the Township Assessor at 726-8880.

2010 tax bill....

The 2010 summer tax bill should be in the mail near the end of June with the due date of September 14. None of the local schools had a voted millage increase; Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids Community College and the County Operating are reported to be about the same.

Pay your taxes easier...

The use of automatic debit payment has been available for several years and is working very nicely. If you haven't used this, and would be interested, please call the Treasurer's Office, at 726-8891, for further information. You will be able pay your taxes automatically from your financial institution to the Township. No stamps! No late penalty fees! No lost mail!

Summer tax deferments...

If your household income for 2009 was less than \$40,000.00, you may be able to defer payment of your summer taxes until February 16, 2011 without any penalties being charged if you meet either of the following conditions: over 61 years of age, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eli-

gible serviceman, blind or a disabled person. The deferment must be renewed annually. It is not continuous year after year.

Drop boxes...



The Township has two drop boxes that can be used during or after office hours for your payment. If you don't want a receipt, I encourage you to use the curbside drop box or the building drop box. Any payment in either drop box will be treated as paid

on the prior business day. This process applies to either tax or utility payments.

Partial payments...

I am encouraging taxpayers to make PARTIAL payments if payment in full cannot be made. 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 fees 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

Preparation for 2011

with the Township Board's Budget and Finance Committee for a preliminary review. Over the years we have done our best to maintain services, responsiveness, and required functions of our unit of government. For 2010, the General Fund (\$7.6 million), Water Fund (\$4.8 million), and Sewer Fund (\$4.7 million) budgets totaled over \$17,000,000. That's a lot of money,

and it represents a lot of services needed to do our job and provide the services that our community of over 31,000 people has come to depend upon. I will attempt to provide more information about our budget issues on our website in the coming months. www.painfieldchartertp.org

Bob Homan, Township Manager

Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority UPDATE

In April of 2007, the Plainfield Township Board of Trustees created a Corridor Improvement Authority (“CIA”) covering an area that includes 152 individual parcels of property along Plainfield Avenue from 4 Mile Road to Airway. The CIA operates like the Comstock Park Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Because of the slowed economy and downward pressure on commercial property values, the amount of money that has been generated in the past few years has been rather small. This year, for example, the property tax revenue for the CIA is around \$40,000. It looks like this amount will be going DOWN next year.

It would be nice to have a lot more money to do projects that enhance the appearance of Plainfield Avenue, but we have to work with what is available. A very visible example of what can be done is the cooperative effort involving Plainfield Township, Grand Rapids Township, property owners, and some grant money through Kent County Community Development to construct new sidewalks from 4 Mile Road to Rupert on the east side of Plainfield and from 4 Mile to Arby’s (the Grand Rapids City Limits) on the west side. Considering the dollars available, the scope of the project, and the very visible benefits of the sidewalks, we see this a success!

At a joint meeting of the Corridor Authority Boards of Grand Rapids Township and Plainfield Township, we reviewed the public and private improvements and new investments along the corridor from 4 Mile to Jupiter and were encouraged by what has been happening. Examples of this over the past four to five years:

- Comerica Bank remodel and new landscaping
- New Biggy Coffee Shop
- Gezon Motors Renovations (also replacement of defective public sidewalks)
- Remodel old 7-11 store into new Subway Restaurant
- Gall Sewing Center moving to largely vacant strip mall
- New 6’ sidewalk and landscaping from Woodworth to Mark Street (Plainfield Lumber)
- Demolition of gas station/ car wash and old Gall Sewing at Woodworth – new Credit Union
- Renovation of Fifth Third Bank (Helms Center Branch)
- Demolition/ new construction of Meijer Store, with room for new frontage development
- Renovation of Meijer gas station
- Construction of new Goodwill Store at 4 Mile
- Renovation of old Goodwill Store to Aaron Rentals
- Total remodel of the old Miracle Lanes/ AMF Bowling Center now in progress
- New Kool Toyota development
- Renovation of VanAndel Flikkema Chrysler Dealership
- Remodel of old Coldwell Banker Real Estate offices and occupied by RIT Music
- Renovation-remodel of strip center at SW corner of Ivy Street
- Remodel/ rehab of former Taco Bell and Jocko’s Tacos building

All this is happening in one half mile of Plainfield Avenue. Plainfield isn't dead; people and government are still investing in this area. We are encouraged; you should be encouraged. There is more to come – things we know about and things we don't. We call upon tenants and property owners to take care of their landscaping, pull the weeds out on the street, pick up trash, clean the sidewalks, and make the avenue look good. If everyone does this, the spiffy

image will attract more business and more investment. Government should not be depended upon to do the things that private enterprises should do, but government and tools like the Corridor Improvement Authority can assist with public improvements, encouragement, planning, and assistance where possible. Things are definitely looking up.

*Robert Homan,
Township Manager*

Have you noticed the Rogue and Grand River watershed banners displayed on the Jupiter Avenue and North Park Street bridges and wondered what they were all about? Plainfield Charter Township (PCT) chose these two main township throughways to highlight watershed awareness in conjunction with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Initiative. PCT is located in both the Rogue River and Grand River watersheds. It is vital that pollutants from stormwater run off do not enter the watersheds because they could have a serious impact on the public water supply.



a storm drain because it could end up polluting waterways or even the public water supply.

The importance of protecting the public water supply cannot be over emphasized and there

are many watershed management tools available to keep the public water supply safe. Informational brochures on watershed management are available to review at the Water Department or Township Hall. Topics of some these brochures include: A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems, Stormwater Management (Illicit Discharges and Connections), and Healthy Lawn and Environment. The most illustrative and favorite for children is the coloring book "A Fish Story." In this clever story, "Troutie" (a rainbow

A watershed is an area of land where all the precipitation (a.k.a. stormwater) that drains off of it flows to a single stream, set of streams or a body of water. Watersheds can be vast with no set local boundaries. They cross city, township, county, state and even national boundaries. Stormwater runs downhill in watersheds and is subject to potential contamination by pesticides, oil and even animal waste. Did you know that most storm drains lead directly into streams, ponds, wetlands, lakes or rivers? It is important to note that the storm drains do not go to a wastewater treatment plant. Never dump anything into

Highlighting Watershed Awareness

trout) creatively explains that he and his family need clean water. Additional information is available at the PCT website, www.plainfieldchartertpw.org, select Water Department, and click on the "Be Stormwater Savvy" link. Both watersheds are truly "yours" to protect because everyone needs clean water to drink, bathe and swim in!

2010 VERSLUIS PARK NEWS

Versluis will be opening on Sunday, May 30, 2010

FISHING INSTRUCTION

Plainfield Township has again partnered with the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America for fishing instruction at Versluis Park. The fishing instruction will be on June 16, 23, 30 and July 7 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the evenings. Plainfield Township will provide the bait, and we have some poles for those that do not have one. Last year the kids caught walleye, blue gill, and bass.



The mission of the Izaak Walton League of America is “to conserve, maintain, protect, and restore the soil, forest, water, and other natural resources of the United States and other lands; to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization.”

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

Versluis Park will be opening on Sunday, May 30, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (**swimming beach ONLY**). All other areas of Versluis Park are open from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. 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 old 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**.”

BATHING BEACH RULES

1. NO swimming except when lifeguard is on duty.
2. Swimming hours permitted 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
3. Swimmers must stay within buoy lines.
4. NO inner tubes, flotation devices, swim fins, masks, large balls, arm floats, or battery powered toys or models are allowed into swimming area.
5. NO scuba diving or scuba diving equipment allowed.
6. NO boats of any kind allowed into swimming area, except for lifeboat.
7. NO ball playing or roughhousing is permitted.
8. NO food, glass containers, or picnicking on beach.
9. NO smoking on the beach.
10. Children must be 10 years of age or older to be in the water at the beach area. Children younger than this will

be allowed in the water if accompanied by a responsible adult, who will stay with the child at all times.

11. Rubber pants must be worn over diapers.
12. Beach will close when thunder and lightning occur or when any other condition occurs that warrants closing of the swimming and beach area, such as a severe thunderstorm watch or tornado watch, severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning.
13. All swimmers must clear the water immediately when the signal to do so is given, and no one may enter the water until an all clear signal is given.
14. Follow all directions by lifeguards. Lifeguards are authorized by Township Ordinance to exclude and expel from the beach or park area any persons who violate these regulations (See lifeguard if you have any questions).
15. Appropriate clothing is required on the

beach and swimming area. (Clothing must be modest, consistent with a family park environment).

16. It is recommended that children under the age of 8 years old use a Coast Guard Approved life jacket while in the water at Versluis.

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 that 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 & ALCOHOL FREE. Violators will be removed and prosecuted.

Our Veterans Remembered

On September 16, 2002, ground was broken for the Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Jupiter and Belmont. Since then, recognition ceremonies have been held each Memorial Day and Veterans Day. This Memorial Day, May 31, a service was held to remember and recognize those veterans who have served the United States of America with State Senator Mark Jansen as guest speaker. Please mark your calendar for the Veterans Day recognition celebration, which will be held November 11.



New Wellhead Protection Ordinance

Effective April 1, 2010

Plainfield Charter Township recently passed a **“Wellhead Protection Ordinance”** in order to safeguard its 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. The new ordinance provides the community with a plan, establishing roles and responsibilities, a contaminant source inventory of the “Wellhead Protection Zone,” strategies to protect our groundwater supply, a contingency plan, and a plan to education the community about the importance to protect our groundwater.

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. Leaking septic tanks, improper use of pesticides/fertilizer,

abandoned wells, underground/above ground storage tanks and uncontained spills of gasoline, oil or chemicals are examples of activities that could negatively impact our community’s water supply. 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.plainfieldchartertp.org).

Our plans for public education consist of working one-on-one with businesses located in the wellhead protection area, informing them of the ordinance and assist them in implementing a Performance Standard. These standards will assure the safety of the township’s drinking water from harmful contamination that could possibly result from their business practices. Businesses and residents in the wellhead protection area will be approached through a series of mailings this year outlining the ordinance and what they can do to aid in protecting our drinking water.

A significant portion of public education is conducting tours of our Water Plant. The Plant Superintendent, along with our operators, escort many classes of students (ranging from grade school to high school) through our facility every year. The students are given a complete overview of how a water treatment plant and water distribution system operates, emphasizing the uniqueness of where Plainfield Charter Township’s water supply is retrieved. The Township uses sixteen different wells located in three different well fields (the wellhead protection area) to pump water from an underground aquifer. The wellhead protection program is covered in detail concentrating on



“The Plainfield Protector”



Water Plant Operator Bill Martin demonstrates groundwater pollution model to Northview students. I call you shortly.

the importance of keeping these well fields free from contamination. The travel of pollution is emphasized using an operating water model allowing the students to visualize the potential of contamination to our drinking water supply. Quite simply, "a picture is worth a thousand words" and a live demonstration reinforces the message. The "Plainfield Protector" is our official mascot for the wellhead protection program. Our mascot heightens the program recognition for wellhead protection public education. The Plainfield Protector appears on the Water Department and the Wellhead Protection Program website along with other promotional material.

The Wellhead Protection Program is the result of the dedicated efforts of our community Wellhead Protection Committee. This committee consists of citizens, water plant treatment personnel, the engineering firm of Prein & Newhof, the Township Manager, and representatives of local business, public schools, health and fire departments. Join them and "The Plainfield Protector" in safeguarding our community water supply.

Mary Trapp 17

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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 accuracy 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.

Here is a list of the selected neighborhoods to be visited in 2010:

BLYTHFIELD
MOBILE HOME PARK CANVAS
REZEN
THOUSAND OAKS "PORCHES"
MILLPOND CONDOS
STILES CREEK / THOUSAND OAKS
PLEASANT CREEK



PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

In a previous *Profile* article I made the analogy between a fire department and a pleasure boat. They are both nice to have around when you need them but seem like a significant expense when you are not using them. In that article I explained how the fire department actually does earn a savings for residents in their insurance premiums.

(<http://www.plainfieldfire.org/chiefsdesk/chiefsdesk-Jun08.htm>). This month I'd like to review how the fire department has saved Plainfield Township residents money through our aggressive pursuit of grants.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency established a program to provide fire departments with federal funding opportunities in 2001 called the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). The AFG program goal is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments by helping them to obtain necessary equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources to protect the public and emergency response personnel from fire and related hazards. These grants are highly competitive. In 2009 there was \$565 million in funding available, and roughly 20,000 applications totaling over \$3 billion submitted for these funds. The grant process is an intense and complicated process (comparable to the IRS long form). Applications are ranked based on the substance of the application relative to the established funding priorities specific to the type of community served. Highest

scoring applications are determined to be in a "competitive range" and undergo further evaluation by a panel of peers, i.e. members of the fire service.

We have applied every year since the program's inception and received several awards. The awards include:

2003– \$65,262 for equipment for the training center – This award provided all of the audio and video equipment necessary to make the classroom in our then-new facility, state of the art (in 2003) from a multi-media perspective. It also provided several training programs as well as tables and chairs. This was not budgeted as part of the construction bid. It greatly enhanced our training capability as well as that of surrounding departments and other disciplines.

2005 – \$78,462 for firefighter personal protective equipment – This award provided replacement equipment that the firefighters wear into hazard zones. The equipment that was replaced was nearly ten years old. The old equipment no longer met national standards, and was becoming unsafe. In some instances we were paying more to repair the clothing than it was worth, but replacing it was not budgeted.

2008 – \$210,000 for Self-contained Breathing Apparatus – This award provided new

breathing apparatus for the department. This equipment is the most important equipment that we use. It protects the firefighters from the hazardous gases that are produced in a fire or in a Hazardous Materials incident. Again, this was an item that had been cut from previous budgets.

2009 – \$50,427 for rescue tools and highway safety equipment – This award provided replacement hydraulic and electric rescue equipment. This equipment is used most frequently to cut open cars to remove victims after an accident. Much of our equipment was 20 years old and was not powerful enough to be efficient on today’s vehicles with their new alloy metals.

The awards that we have received through FEMA total \$404,151. We have also applied for another grant under the SAFER program worth \$345,646. This program provides funding for the hiring of firefighters. The grant calls for the community to agree not to go below the staffing level at the time of the application and to pay any overtime for the additional

firefighters during the two-year period of the award. I anticipate hearing about this grant in the near future. We have also looked for additional nontraditional grant opportunities with good success. Those grants totaled over \$25,000 and provided radios, Hazmat equipment, inspection software and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Finally, we are losing one of our most valued employees. Rebekah VanBeek has been my administrative assistant for over three years. When she started with us she knew very little about the fire service but was willing to learn. She has worked hard and has a very strong understanding of how the fire service and government operates. She has written many of the grants for the department and recently wrote a regional grant for the Kent County Dispatch Authority for \$1.8 million for equipment to make our first responders safer and more efficient. We wish Rebekah the best in her new endeavors knowing that she has made a positive impact on all our lives.



“The fire department has saved Plainfield Township residents money through our aggressive pursuit of grants.”

The Profile

Plainfield Charter Township
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Belmont, MI 49306

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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