

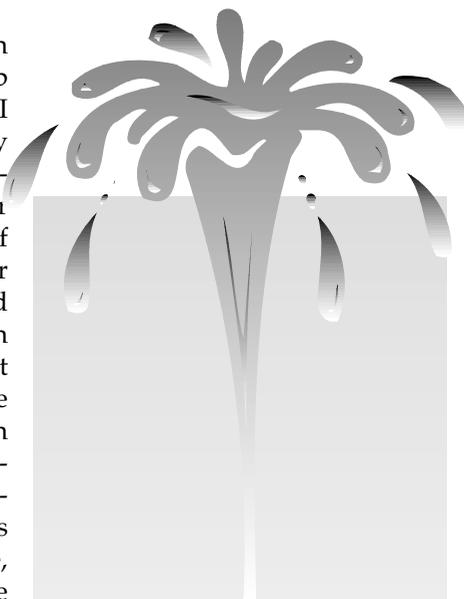
The Profile

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER 2

JUNE 2006

Having been here in Plainfield Township for only ten years, I am certain that there are many people around who have forgotten more than I will ever know about the history of Plainfield Township's Water System. From my limited knowledge, let me explain what I understand about that history. It goes back to the 1950s, when developers in Plainfield and Alpine Townships provided new neighborhoods with their own wells and water mains. Over time, these private systems were taken over by Plainfield Township and integrated into one public water system. Gradually the new system was improved and expanded. Township officials and water system employees built the system and made it what it has become. There — in four sentences — is the fifty-year history of Plainfield Township's water system.

Of course, this doesn't begin to do justice to a multi-million dollar investment in the provision of dependable and safe



Plainfield Township's Water System

public water services to the people of Plainfield and Alpine Townships, all of whom are treated the same as part of one system. A book could be written describing what has happened over those fifty years. There are plenty of people around who made important decisions, who worked on the system, fixed problems, identified solutions, and whose efforts have allowed us the luxury of turning on a faucet, getting that H₂O, and never giving it a second thought. As time passes and both water customers and water workers come and go, the remarkable achievements of local politicians, developers, engineers, plant operators, and maintenance workers will remain — perhaps unsung — but they remain.

Plainfield Township's water system is special. I do not know of a township-owned and operated system quite like ours that has as many wells, a water treatment plant, pumps, storage tanks,

continued on page 2

Water System *from page 1*

and 223 miles of pipe in the ground serving many thousands of people.

Our system's capacity is adequate, but we are planning ahead and will eventually see the system expanded and improved to serve our growing community more and better. We can treat 16 million gallons of water per day and can pump 20 million. Our average daily usage is about 4 million gallons. However, in the driest parts of recent years, we have nearly peaked at 11 million gallons per day. **We need to contain and control wasteful water use practices, because millions of dollars will need to be raised and spent sooner than necessary if we don't.** Eventually, expansion must occur, but we can postpone that day by being smart about how we use our water. Low flow toilets, low flow shower heads, highly controlled and managed sprinkling systems, and basic, simple water use practices in our homes will make all of the difference in this critical effort to make us all good stewards of this precious resource. All of us are responsible: the decision makers, managers, workers, and customers – right down to children who need to be taught about the simple things in wise water use. Little things, like: Don't leave the water running as you brush your teeth. Fix that leaky valve in your sink, tub, or toilet. Don't drown your lawn or your garden. Chances are that customers are using much more water than they need.

Our fire department's rating and your homeowner's insurance rating are based on how much water can be brought to bear on a structural fire in each minute on a sustained basis. Our system is pretty darned good, and we are doing what can be prudently done to make it better. We constantly test the quality of our drinking water. The State of Michigan regularly surveys and inspects our system in detail. We work to protect our sources of ground water. We do preventive maintenance. We build safeguards and redundancies into our system. We respond to emergencies. We inspect

new mains to ensure the safety and reliability of our system for decades to come. We are always thinking of our customers and how dependent they are on the work we do and the decisions we make. All of our customers are mailed our annual Water Quality Report. It will be mailed within the next month. Please study it before you throw it away.

Our system is vital to the well being of thousands – businesses, residences, schools, and industry. It is vital to our physical health, our comfort, and our economy. Plainfield Township controls it. We are not dependent upon any large municipality, as we have been with our sewer system for nearly forty years. We, at Plainfield Township, are stewards of a treasure that has been nurtured and handed down to us by the wisdom and labor of probably fewer than a hundred people. It is the job of the Township Board, their managers, and their workers to carry on the never-ending effort that produced this great public work. Plainfield Township's water system is a testament to the vision, conviction, good sense, and hard work of the few, supported by the voters and customers whom they serve.

For all this, all of us should be grateful and should have a sense of pride in what we have accomplished in Plainfield Township. There are many people who deserve recognition. Some have passed on, some are retired, and some are still active. I would like to mention four of them. Their record of work and dedication stimulates those who remain active in this business.

Donald Lamoreaux, former Township Treasurer, Supervisor, and manager of the water system until the mid-80s.

Walter Gryka, water system manager in the 60s and 70's.

Charles Weldon, former superintendent of water distribution system maintenance.

Vincent Ferrarese, recently retired Water Department Director from 1987 to 2006. Thank you, gentlemen!

Robert C. Homan, Township Manager



Message from the Supervisor

I have selected "SAFETY" as my topic for this issue of the PROFILE. I know that everyone is constantly being reminded about safety, whether it is hearing about it on the TV or radio, or reading

about it in newspapers, magazines, flyers or on billboards. The safety I want to stress is happening right here in Plainfield Charter Township and it mainly has to do with our roads. By the time you read this message in the PROFILE, some of the repairs to our network of roads may already be completed. My two main concerns going on right now are the widening of West River Drive from Pine Island Drive east to Safety Drive, and the Northland bridge rebuilding.

West River Drive is a Kent County project and the Northland bridge is a State of Michigan project. With the projects being done simultaneously, traffic in these areas of the township will be unbearable at times. Since the bridge

3

project is slated to take longer to complete than the West River project, drivers on Northland Drive are going to be inconvenienced right on through the heat of summer, and believe me, tempers will be short. I'm sure you have noticed that when a road is closed for construction, there isn't always an alternate route identified, so drivers find their own detour routes, "wherever" they may be.

I have already received complaints about drivers short-cutting their routes and driving through the Family Fare/Sheldon Cleaners complex at dangerous speeds in order to avoid the traffic back-ups. I understand the frustration that builds up because I have spent my time in the long traffic lines causing me to be late for a meeting, but we must be cognizant of other people and our surroundings and drive "SAFELY." In order to save a few minutes of driving time, we may be the cause of an accident that has life-long effects on someone with devastating consequences. Please, be considerate and drive safely so *everyone* can have a nice day.

Thank you and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

George K. Meek, Supervisor

Versluis Park Non-resident Season Pass

Versluis Park is now open. Beach hours are 11:00 am. – 8:00 pm. All other areas of Versluis Park are open from 11:00 am. – 9:00 pm. during the summer months. This year, non-residents are being offered the opportunity to buy a season pass.

ADMISSION:

Daily: \$6.00 per vehicle

Non-resident season pass: \$75.00

Plainfield resident season pass: \$15.00

All *other* township parks are open from 7:00 a.m. to sunset, year round.

Kent County Road Commission Sealcoat Program

Sealcoating of our County roads has been a very productive improvement program for Kent County Road Commission for a number of years. On average, we place sealcoat on approximately 75 miles of County roads each year to extend the life of the road for area motorists. The process is a two-step application of asphalt emulsion and stone. The emulsion serves two functions; one to fill cracks in the pavement, and second to bond the stone to the existing surface. The stone provides a renewed driving surface that increases tire traction and improves stopping distance for added safety.

The sealcoat process allows for quick application and driver access to the roadway. Once the stone is applied and rolled into the emulsion, curing or setting of the asphalt binder begins to take place immediately. Cold and wet weather hampers the curing of the asphalt emulsion and can cause longer delays in traffic or possible failures in the final product.

Kent County Road Commission places "loose stone" signs to inform motorists, pedestrians, and bikers that a sealcoat has been placed.

4

Adequate stone needs to be placed to insure coverage of the asphalt emulsion to prevent tracking of the emulsion, and to provide a uniform driving surface. Kent County Road Commission will sweep the surface of sealcoated roads to pick up excess loose stone, but not until after the stone has completed the bonding with the emulsion. "Loose stone" signs remain in place until the sweeping phase has been completed.

The cost to place a sealcoat surface is approximately \$25,000.00/mile of two-lane road, and the life expectancy is three to five years depending on the conditions of the existing road. By comparison, a one-course overlay of bituminous asphalt pavement 1.5 inches thick is approximately \$75,000.00 with a life expectancy of eight to ten years.

With declining revenues, our goal is to keep as many miles of County roads in good or fair condition as possible. Using the sealcoat process allows us to improve and protect more miles of road for Kent County motorists with the resources we have available.

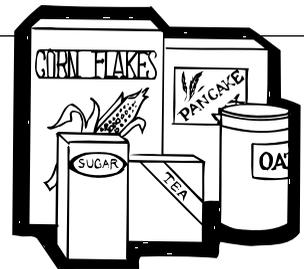
Commodity Distribution

Commodities will be distributed to qualified low-income persons on these dates:

- September 7, 2006
- December 7, 2006
- March 1, 2007-

To qualify you must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road. Distribution is at 6156 Belmont Avenue, located across from the Plainfield Township Offices. Hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

New families wishing to qualify may call Jim or Peg Granzotto at 784-5249, or come to our distribution site on the above dates. You will need to bring your Social Security card and an income statement.



*Read below about the “Open House” at the
new Plainfield Township Fire Station No. 3 training center
Thursday, June 8, from 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm.*

To most people, the CIA would be the Central Intelligence Agency of the federal government that we hear about all the time in the news. Now, to us locally, CIA means “Corridor Improvement Authority.” Perhaps you have heard of “Downtown Development Authorities” (DDAs). A CIA is very much like a DDA. It is a TIFA, a “Tax Increment Financing Authority.” So much for acronyms and gobbledegook. Should you spend any more time reading this PRO-FILE article? Yes! Here’s why:

Plainfield Avenue is an aging commercial corridor in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, much like portions of Division Avenue or West 28th Street in Wyoming. All three of these older commercial corridors are candidates for renewal and redevelopment. Plainfield Avenue has a lot going for it. We have seen many improvements over the past few years, but we also see areas that have declined in appearance, occupancy, and usefulness.

Private investment has pretty much been the driving force behind the improvements we have seen recently. Notably, many of the automobile dealerships have invested substantial sums in the area, as have Plainfield Township and the redeveloper of the former North Kent Mall. Those investments should be protected and added to. Creation of a Plainfield Township – Grand Rapids Township CIA has the po-



What is a “CIA”?

tential of bringing public investment, *without any tax increases*, to a public-private partnership in the area. Officials from both townships have met several times recently to explore the possibilities of using new state legislation that allows for the formation of a CIA on Plainfield Avenue. There are a number of difficult issues that must be investigated and resolved to make such a venture feasible. We are working on it, and an important step in this exploratory effort involves an informal “Open House” at the new Plainfield Township Fire Station No. 3 training center at 4343 Plainfield Avenue. This is roughly at the southwest corner of Plainfield and 5 Mile Road. This event will happen on Thursday, June 8, from 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm.

Business and property owners along Plainfield Avenue from Airway down to Lamberton Lake Drive are invited to this open house. Please take this opportunity to learn about this exciting opportunity. Involvement and direction by representatives of the target area will be ESSENTIAL to any success. To get a rough idea of what a CIA can accomplish, consider the eastern end of 28th Street in Cascade Township and Lake Michigan Drive in Standale. The opportunity for the creation of a Corridor Improvement Authority that will be able to do great things to help the Plainfield Avenue Corridor rejuvenate itself is in front of us right now. Stay tuned. Become informed. Become involved.

PLAINFIELD FD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Typically I let the other departments do their own bragging, but I'm going to do some for the Water Department just this once. I have been on the fire department with two other communities, both having had water departments. As a result, I have a pretty good idea of how a good water department operates. Without a doubt the Plainfield Charter Township Water Department is the best designed, maintained, and operated of any that I am aware of. I attribute this to the hard work and dedication of the former head of the Water Department, Vince Ferrarese.



Vince has recently retired, opting to spend his time with his family and friends rather than going through the trials and tribulations of keeping water flowing to our homes and businesses. The fire department and water system are rated by an organization known as the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Insurance ratings are determined by how well the fire department, water department, and, to a small degree dispatch, are prepared to serve the area. Through the efforts of Vince and his crew the water department has received excellent ratings and has allowed residents to receive lower rates on their home owners insurance. Homeowners save as much as \$50.00 per

year for insurance on a home valued at \$125,000 because of our current ISO rating. We received that rating, in part, because of the water department's willingness to size water mains to allow adequate flow and place hydrants as they are required by the codes. Believe it or not, there are some communities that are more concerned about the number of hydrants that must be maintained rather than the ISO rating for the community.

So anyway, thanks, Vince Ferrarese. We appreciate what you have done for the community, and we will miss you.

The second item that I would like to share is that the fire department will begin work on a new master plan. As part of the planning process we would like to meet with the stakeholders in the community. We will be inviting the schools, churches, businesses, and neighborhoods to participate in a values-setting meeting sometime in late June or early July. Anyone wishing to participate should contact me at chief@plainfieldfire.org or (616) 361-2895. The more people involved in this process, the better we will be able to identify desires for current and future fire department programs and services.

A Citizen's Guide to Auto Care



How we take care of our cars, trucks, and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the Grand River. You can do your part to stop pollution at the source by preventing detergents, oil, grease, and gasoline from entering street drains, which lead directly to nearby streams and lakes.

Vehicle washing

- Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers at your local grocery store.
- You can also use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid products with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates (*see chart*).

Fuel and Oil

- When fueling, avoid topping off! Remember that fuel expands as it warms up in your tank.
- Store fuel only in approved containers.
- Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.
- Recycle your waste oil. Never dump it down a street drain!



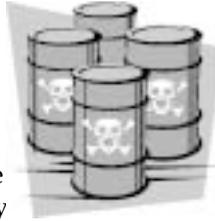
Engine care

- Keep vehicle engines properly tuned for efficient fuel consumption and clean exhaust

<i>Product</i>	<i>Better Alternative</i>
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean and baby oil to polish
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, and "elbow grease"
Paint stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use
Scouring powders	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice mixed in lukewarm water
Wood polish	Olive oil or almond oil for interior wood; use water- or borax-based products

A Citizen's Guide to Household Hazardous Waste

The average U.S. household can have as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste stored throughout their house and garage. Improper disposal of these materials can contaminate drinking water, harm the environment, and create health hazards for you and your family. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. However, if you choose to use commercial products, make sure to dispose of them properly!



Where Can I Take My Household Hazardous Waste?

To drop off your household hazardous waste, schedule an appointment with the Kent County Department of Public Works to participate in the free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for Kent County residents. To schedule an appointment, or for additional information, call the Kent County Department of Public Works at 1-888-217-2850 or 616-336-2570. Appointments can be made at the South Kent Landfill or North Kent Recycling & Transfer Station.

South Kent Landfill

300 100th Street, Grand Rapids
Tuesday afternoon appointments available

North Kent Recycling & Transfer Station

2908 Ten Mile Road, Rockford
Friday morning appointments available

What Household Hazardous Waste Can I Dispose?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts the following waste materials:

- Oil based paints and stains
- Paint thinner
- Pool chemicals
- Weed killers
- Insecticides & pesticides
- Cleaners
- Household batteries
- Gasoline & kerosene
- Mercury & acids
- Automobile liquids
- Solvents

Where Can I Take Recyclables?

In addition to disposal of hazardous waste, the North Kent Recycling & Transfer station also offers residential recycling of plastics, paper, glass, metals, and cardboard. The site is available to the public Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call the station at 616-866-5070.

Septic System Maintenance

Does your septic tank need to be inspected or pumped out? If so, give a reputable septic tank service contractor a call this spring.

Your septic system should be inspected every 3 years and pumped out every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure.



A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Care

Using healthy lawn care practices is one step toward cleaner streams and lakes
—even if you don't have waterfront property.

Tips for Mowing

Taller grass means a healthier lawn, and it's easier to maintain! Set your mower blade to leave about three inches of grass. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water, and shades out weed growth. It's also more insect and disease resistant. Vary the direction of lawn mowing periodically to prevent wear patterns and soil compaction.



Tired of Raking Your Leaves? Mow 'em!

Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging - just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. It's an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

Tips for Watering

Excessive watering is wasteful! Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs.

- 15-20 minutes of sprinkling daily is better than a few heavy waterings throughout the week, according to research by Michigan State University.
- If daily watering is impractical, 30-40 minutes of watering every other day is sufficient.
- Make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn - not your driveway or sidewalk!

Don't Guess ... Soil Test!

Don't assume your yard needs fertilizer. Perform a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying by only replacing the nutrients your soil needs. Michigan State University Extension offers soil nutrient testing for a nominal fee. To find out more, call the extension office in your area: 616-336-3265 (Kent County) or 616-846-8250 (Ottawa County).

Choose the Correct Fertilizer

Over-fertilizing can contribute excessive amounts of pollutants to streams and lakes through the storm sewer. Without realizing it, many landowners are applying fertilizers and pesticides when their lawns don't even need them!

If you do choose to fertilize, use slow-release fertilizers that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients for plants. This also prevents the big spurt of growth common with synthetic fertilizers. Slow-release fertilizers come in a variety of types, including organic, time-release, and coated.



Avoid "weed-and-feed" mixtures, which contain herbicides to control weed growth and are often applied where they aren't needed. If healthy lawn care practices (correct mowing height and watering) are followed, weed control shouldn't be necessary. Be sure your mower is set to three inches to help shade out unwanted weeds.

The Plainfield Township Water Department
wants to remind you to keep...

USING WATER WISELY!!!

What a wonderful time of year!!!

The grass is green, the trees are full, and our gardens are on their way to fruitful greatness!!! And our most precious natural resource is helping us get there...WATER!

We all know that water is an absolute requirement to keeping our grasses green and our flowers blooming, but we often unnecessarily use this resource during the summer months which can cause much more harm than good to our lawns.(And wallets due to larger than normal water bills.)

Did you know that lawns in this area only require about 1" of a combination of rainfall and sprinkler water each week? Over-watering or improper watering can actually harm your grass and plants!

Here are some great irrigation tips that can not only help your grass, but also help with those larger water bills that come during the summer months!

- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation.
- Position sprinklers so water lands only on the lawns and shrubs...NOT paved areas and buildings.
- Check your sprinkler system and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly.
- Install a rain sensor for automatic irrigation systems, or manually turn off sprinklers during and after rainfall.
- Cut your grass to 3" high or more. A higher cut encourages roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and helps retain soil moisture longer.
- Consider using native plants for landscaping. They tolerate historic rainfall patterns and temperature changes.



Remember:

**We have plenty of water to use...
we don't have enough to waste!**

CALLING ALL PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP KIDS!!!!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
2ND ANNUAL WATER FESTIVAL!!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006



PRESENTED BY THE PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
WELLHEAD PROTECTION COMMITTEE
YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT
OUR MOST PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCE...

WATER!!!

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR GAMES, PRIZES, ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS!
AND IT'S ALL FREE!!!!!!

AUGUST 12, 2006 FROM 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
AT VERSLUIS PARK (off Northland Drive)

CUT OUT THE COUPON BELOW FOR A **FREE ONE DAY ADMISSION**
TO BEAUTIFUL VERSLUIS PARK

FREE ADMISSION

INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR REDEMPTION

This coupon entitles you to **ONE** free vehicle admission to Versulis Park
on AUGUST 12, 2006

NO CASH VALUE — DUPLICATES WILL BE HONORED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



KDL

Kent District Library NEWS

You can visit KDL right on your home computer—on our website, www.kdl.org! Reserve a best selling book or DVD, register for a program or make a suggestion to purchase a book for the library collection. You can even download audiobooks to your computer and transfer them to your MP3 player. Sign up for e-mail notification of holds and overdue reminders by clicking on the “email notification” icon and completing the online application.

Look for some big changes in the public service areas of both of your KDL branches this summer! New technology and programs will be implemented to improve and enhance service to our library users. All public PCs will be replaced, existing software upgraded and new software added, including various media players such as Real Player and iTunes. Although MP3 Players and Ipods will not be supported with the new media player software, users will be able to download and burn music or other data to a CD-ROM. New DVD readers/recorders will provide users with another method to store and view information.

Summer Reading Club begins June 12 and from 2:30-4pm both branches will kick off the summer with an ice cream social for customers of all ages. Kids entering grade 5 and younger can sign up for the “Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales” program and spend 8 weeks reading for some great prizes. Kids entering grades 6-12 can sign up for the “Creature Feature” reading club and may win an iPod.

Bring the family to free programs all summer long!

For young children and families...

Babytime – One-on-one rhymes for babies and their parents.

Plainfield – Mondays at 10:30 am,
June 12–July 17

Laptime – Stories, music and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their parents.

Plainfield – Thursdays at 10:30,
June 15, 22 and

Storytime – Stories and crafts for ages 3-6 years.

Plainfield – Thursdays at 10:30 am,
June 15, 22, and 29

Comstock Park – Mondays at 10:30 am,
July 10-31.

Movie and Craft Time – For ages 3-6

Plainfield – Thursdays at 10:30 am,
July 20, 27, and August 3.

For all ages...

Animal Crackers Petting Zoo. Get close and personal with animals.

Plainfield – Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 pm
Comstock Park – Monday, June 26 at 3:00 pm

Harpbeat, a musical group.

Plainfield – Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 pm

Percussion Discussion with Bill Vits

Plainfield - Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 pm

Party in the Park. An afternoon of fun, games and prizes!

At Fifth Third Ball Park –

Thursday, July 6 from Noon to 2:00 pm

PLAINFIELD BRANCH HOURS

2650 5-Mile Road NE • Phone: 647-3930

Mon. through Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(during the school year only)

COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH HOURS

3943 West River Drive • Phone: 647-3860

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

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Create a Critter Craft Program

Plainfield – Wednesday, July 10 at 10:30 pm

Nature Detective: Animals and their Tools

Comstock Park – Tuesday, July 11 at 3:00 pm

Magic Show with Renee Hudson

Plainfield – Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 pm

Outdoor Discover Center Reptile Program

Plainfield – Thursday, July 13 at 6:30 pm

Other programs for children include...

The Jester Prince, a lively show presented by the KDL Puppeteers. Ages 4 and up.

Plainfield – Thursday, July 27 at 6:30 pm

Comstock Park – Tuesday, June 20 at 3:00 pm

Professor Bug and the world of insects. Ages 6 and up.

Comstock Park – Monday, June 19 at 3:00 pm

Horse Capades, pony and horse crafts. Ages 6 and up.

Plainfield - Wednesday, June 21 at 10:30 am

Purrfect Pet Presents—gifts for your pets.

Ages 6 and up.

Plainfield – Wednesday, June 28 at 10:30 am

Comstock Park – Tuesday, July 18 at 3:00 pm

And just for teens...

Soap-making.

Plainfield – Tuesday July 25 at 6:30pm

Comstock Park – Thursday, June 22 at 1:30 pm

Knitting with Lillian Gritter

Comstock Park – Thursday, June 29 at 1:30 pm

CSI: Kent County, with Lou Hunt from the Sheriff's Dept.

Plainfield – Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30 pm

Comstock Park – Thursday, July 13 at 1:30 pm

Dance Dance Revolution

Plainfield – Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30 pm

Punk and Junk Crafts

Plainfield – Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30 pm

Self-service is coming to the Plainfield Branch!

New shelving has been installed in the public area across from the checkout desk to allow patrons to pick up materials placed on hold. This self-service feature will reduce lines and waiting time at the checkout desk. Further improvements are scheduled for late August when a new circulation desk and equipment will be installed that will allow for self-service checkout. Stay tuned!

The Friends of the Plainfield Library, a 501(c)(3) organization, is an active association of library volunteers who sponsor events and programs to raise funds that enhance the facilities and services of the Plainfield Township Branch Library. Consider making a difference in your community by becoming a Friend of the Library through your tax-deductible membership donation. Membership applications are available at the Plainfield branch.

Mark your calendars! The Friends will host a used book sale beginning on Friday, September 15 through Monday, September 18th. A wide variety of fiction, non-fiction, children's and adult titles will be available for purchase and the proceeds will benefit your community.

Hyser Rivers Museum Is Open

The Hyser Rivers Museum, located at 6440 West River Drive in Belmont, is open the first Sunday of the month from 2:00 pm. to 4:30 pm. Special tours for out-of-town guests, school groups, scout groups, etc. can be arranged by calling the Township office at (616) 364-8466. This historical home, built in 1850, contains many items of antiquity. Come visit and enjoy its history.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Property Owners: DID YOU KNOW?

- If you have purchased a new home, NEW applications for a **Principal Residence Exemption** (formerly "Homestead Exemption") must be filed by May 1st. You do not have to file each year if you don't change your residence.
 - It is your responsibility to review your assessing record card periodically to be sure you agree with all the information currently on record. You may go to the Township's website (www.plainfieldchartertp.org) and click on property information to review your record.
 - Your taxable value can never exceed your assessed value. The **Assessed Value** becomes the **Taxable Value** when a property's ownership is transferred.
 - If a property's ownership changes, a **Property Transfer Affidavit** must be filed in the Assessor's Office within 45 days of that change to avoid penalties.
 - Although your property's assessed value is set at one-half of its **True Cash Value**, the Assessor, by State law (Sec 27(5) of the General Property Tax Act), is not permitted to set the assessed value at one half of your purchase price.
 - 2006 Residential Assessments (**Assessed Value**) were increased an average of 5%, and the **Taxable Value** for 2006 was increased by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 3.3%. This factor is set by the State in the fall of each year. Unless there were additions or losses to a property, the **Taxable Value** cannot increase by more than the CPI or 5%, whichever is less. It is possible for your Assessed Value to decrease and your Taxable Value to increase if the two values are not equal. If the Assessed Value stays the same, the Taxable Value will continue to increase until it reaches the Assessed Value or the property has transferred ownership.
 - Plainfield Charter Township has a total property value (**True Cash Value**) of over 2.4 billion with 13,128 parcels.
- Property assessing and property taxing procedures are very complex. While we in the Assessing Department deal with this routinely, we understand that most citizens do not understand these complexities. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office directly at (616)726-8880.

Judy LaFave, CMAE3
Assessor

Online Check Processing...

In early January the Treasurers office purchased computer software and hardware that allows us to deposit your check directly to the bank without leaving the office. This process offers savings of time, we will earn interest on our deposit sooner (as much as 3 days in some cases) and we also have the ability to retrieve an image of the check for 7 years.

What I would like to highlight is that the check will CLEAR your account at least 24 hours SOONER! Be aware of this so that you have sufficient funds available at time you submit your check to the Township. In the old days we had 3 days of "float." The float is gone.

County tax shift...

If the value of your property and the millage rates stayed the same from 2005 to 2006, your 2006 summer tax bill will still be higher than your 2005 summer bill. How much? One half of the 2005 winter Kent County operating tax will shift to the 2006 summer bill. Overall the shift nets to NO increase because the 2006 winter bill would go down the same amount.

Back of tax bill and special stuffer inserted in your tax bill...

In each mailing of the tax bill I include a stuffer that contains important information regarding your tax bill, office hours, drop boxes and answers to many questions that have been asked in the past. We notice that many of you don't read this information because you call us and ask questions that have the answers on the stuffer or on the back of the tax bill. Please read this information.

Freely access your assessing and tax information ...

You can access assessing and tax information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by going to the Plainfield Charter Township website, www.plainfieldchartertp.org. On the left side of the homepage and just above the Township

property address is a //Quick Find// menu containing shortcuts. By clicking the "Property Information" link you will go to the data base that has current and prior years tax information, assessments, photos of your building and sketches. This is available for every parcel in the Township. You can also access this information via telephone by dialing 1(800)846-8725 and enter the code of 4110 for Plainfield Charter Township.

Recap of 2005 collections...

The Township collected over 96% of taxes prior to March 1st. Thank you for remitting payments in a timely fashion. The Treasurer's office processed over 25,000 tax bills between the summer and winter cycles. Personal Property (a type of business tax and personal property at mobile home pads) had a delinquency rate of just over 12%. This isn't bad, but we want to do better and we will. If you experienced any problems, please contact me at 726-8891.

Pay your taxes easier...

The use of automatic debit payment has been available for several years and is working very nicely. If you would like to sign up for this service, please call Pam at 726-8891 for further information. Your taxes will be paid automatically from your financial institution to the Township. No stamps! No late fees! No lost mail!

Your taxes paid from a mortgage escrow account...

If you refinanced or restructured your mortgage after May, (for the summer tax bill) or November (for the winter tax bill) and you changed mortgage companies, the tax bill may indicate the prior mortgage company. If that is the case, you must send a copy of the tax bill to the correct mortgage company because we sent the tax bill to the mortgage company on record at the time of tax bill preparation.

Jim Stover, Treasurer

Wireless Broadband Offered

All-In-One Wireless has entered into an agreement with Plainfield Township to lease space on several of our elevated water storage tanks. The Township Board wishes to facilitate the availability of a new High-Speed Broadband Wireless Internet option to the residents of Plainfield Charter Township and others on the outskirts of this area. All-In-One is currently in the process of building a network that will connect four township-owned water towers at these locations: 10 mile/US131, Pine Island/9 Mile, Alpine Ave/4 Mile, and East Beltline/4 Mile.

If you can see one of these towers from your residence you will be able to be served. Those of you who cannot see one of these water towers but live within a three to four mile radius may still be able to be served, but the provider will need to visit your location and perform a site survey to be sure. All-In-One may also be

providing "WI-FI" service to businesses and residents that are located less than a half-mile of one of these towers.

All-In-One plans to begin putting new customers online the first week of June. We understand that many inquiries have already been made to All-In-One about this, confirming the Township Board's feeling that broadband wireless Internet access should be made available in places where no such service exists or where an additional choice can be provided by private enterprise.

Plainfield Township is not involved in the direct provision of these services; it entirely a private sector operation. All-In-One simply leases space from the Township for their equipment. Any questions you may have after reading this article should be directed to All-In-One Wireless, whose office phone is (616) 531-1538.

Plainfield Charter Township

TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: 364-8466

TOWNSHIP BOARD

George Meek, Supervisor
Susan Morrow, Clerk
James Stover, Treasurer
Rebecca Borek, Trustee
Jack Hagedorn, Trustee
Robert Heindrichs, Trustee
William Parris, Trustee



MANAGER

Robert Homan

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

7:30 pm

First and Third Mondays

www.plainfieldchartertp.org

The Profile

Plainfield Charter Township
6161 Belmont NE
Belmont, MI 49306

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