

# The Profile

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There are 1,242 townships in the State of Michigan. Every single one of them has a township treasurer, elected by the voters on a partisan ballot. Township treasurers serve four-year terms, along with the Clerk, the Supervisor, and trustees. James Stover has been the Township Treasurer of Plainfield Township since 1998, when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Suzanne Slot. At the time, Jim Stover was working in the IT Department of Kent County. He had been Treasurer of Niles Township in Berrien County for nearly 20 years. One could reasonably say that he is experienced in township government and knows more than a thing or two about the office of Township Treasurer. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Michigan Townships Association.

Assisting him are his Deputy Treasurer, Cullen Chapple, and Assistant, Pamela Denemy. Pam has been Cashier and Treasurer's Assistant since 1997, and Cullen has just recently celebrated his second anniversary as Jim Stover's Deputy. Deputy Treasurers in Michigan town-

## The Township Treasurer's Department



ships may exercise all of the powers of the Treasurer in his or her absence — except voting as a member of the Township Board. What these folks do is the subject of this installment of a continuing series of vignettes about the operating departments included in the Plainfield Charter Township organization.

**MONEY.** This one word summarizes what the Treasurer's Department does, but it is an inadequate summary. These people perform many tasks in a world of changing technology and complex interrelationships with other departments, other organizations, and the public. All of the money received and collected — from property taxes to state revenue sharing, from water and sewer bills to building

permits — is processed by the Treasurer, transferred to other units of government, invested carefully and wisely, and tracked meticulously as required by law and good accounting practices.

Citizens come through the front door of Township Hall, pass Kathy Timmerman at the re-  
*continued on page 2*

# Township Treasurer's Department *from page 1*

ception counter, and walk right up to the bank or credit union-looking counter where Pam, Cullen, or perhaps Jim greet them and offer their friendly service. Taking money, responding to questions, and assisting "customers" in many ways – pleasantly – is what they do every day they are on the job. Sometimes, particularly during the property tax deadline weeks, the Treasurer's Office is extremely busy, the parking lot is full, and there are lines at the counter. Mail, of course, brings in many more transactions – and not just taxes. Plainfield Township receives tons of inquiries from title companies, Realtors, and other financial institutions—not to mention individuals who are looking for answers to many questions.

Personal interactions with the Treasurer's staff are diverse and important. During a year, there are certainly thousands of them. They are typically pleasant and productive, but there will always be the negative and the frustrating. I

have personally witnessed some of these, and I will say candidly that these difficult cases are handled professionally and politely. Certainly, mistakes are inevitable, and everyone can have a bad day or a bad moment, but I have witnessed remarkably few in the Treasurer's Office.

Complexity and detail not readily seen by most visitors to Township Hall are found behind the scenes. Lots of files, some in written form, and many more in electronic form, contain the mundane and the mysterious workings of the Treasurer's Office. No one can begin to explain it all, but I want to use this article to emphasize that the Treasurer's Office is a vital and very visible part of the Plainfield Township organization. Fortunately, neither Jim Stover nor I lose a minute's sleep worrying about this operation. We have good workers and dedicated people making sure that we never have to worry.

*Left to right: Cullen Chapple, Deputy Treasurer; Pam Denemy, Treasurer's Assistant; Jim Stover, Treasurer*



# Free Car Seat Safety Check

The Kent County Sheriff Department, in partnership with Greater Grand Rapids Safe Kids, is offering FREE car seat safety checks at the Algoma Fire Department at 10820 Edgerton Avenue NE, Rockford MI. The station will be open from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. the first Friday of the month – no appointment necessary.

The following dates are scheduled for the safety check:

- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7



For more information on car seat safety information, go to [www.grandrapidsafekids.org](http://www.grandrapidsafekids.org).

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A PASSPORT PARTY!

Two special dates in 2007 to choose from:

**Saturday, July 14 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Saturday, August 11 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Plainfield Charter Township Offices, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, (616) 364-8466**

FEES: All passport fees are the same nationwide.

- A separate check to the **U.S. Department of State:**  
\$67 if you are 16 years or older  
\$52 if you are under 16
- A separate check or cash to **Plainfield Charter Township:**  
\$30 per application  
\$8 per set of 2 photographs (if we take them)

**Sorry, credit cards *cannot* be taken for payment.**

Certified Birth Certificate or previously issued valid Passport, certificate of Naturalization required in addition to Drivers License or State ID. Applicants under 14 years of age must have *both natural parents* present and both parents drivers license information (see Web site for exceptions). All applicants, including children must be present for application to be executed.

**For details on everything you need to apply, visit:  
[www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pctpassport.htm](http://www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pctpassport.htm)**

### REMINDER:

As of **1/23/2007**, ALL air and sea travel to ALL foreign countries, cluding Canada and Mexico, now requires a U.S. Passport.

As of **12/31/2007**, ALL travel outside the USA will require a U.S. Passport.

Passports applications are also accepted Monday thru Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Township Offices.

NO appointment is necessary!



# KDL NEWS

## Kent District Library

### Making reading convenient for you!

**A**re you too busy to visit your library? Do you put books on hold and forget to pick them up? Now you can bring the library to your home! Go to [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org), and click on "Ebooks and Eaudiobooks". Choosing from thousands of titles, you can download the text of books directly to your computer or handheld device. Or, download Eaudiobooks and listen to them on your computer—or take them with you on your MP3 player or other electronic device. Now you can catch up with your favorite author on your drive to work, or tackle a whole novel on a long road trip.

### Extreme Makeovers

The Plainfield Library has been busy putting on a new face during the past few months to make it a more comfortable and safe place to visit. You will notice bright new colors on the walls, new carpet on the floor and a new configuration for the public Internet stations. More Internet stations have been added and the time limit for Internet use has been re-set to 60 minutes per day to help meet the increasing demand for Internet service. To help make all these improvements happen, the Friends of the Plainfield Library worked with Plainfield Township to subsidize the costs for the painting and electrical work. Thanks to the township and the staff of the Building and Grounds Department for supporting and coordinating this major upgrade of the library facility. And thanks to the Friends for their financial support as well.

The Comstock Park branch has also changed. 4

We also have new carpet and newly painted colorful walls. In addition (like our big sister library on 5-Mile), we now have self-checkout machines. Stop in and see for yourselves!

### Summer Reading Club Fun

Kent District Library's mysterious Summer Reading Club runs from Monday, June 11 until Saturday, August 4. All you have to do to join is visit the library, register, get a game board, and read. "Get a Clue @ Your Library," for both pre-readers and readers up to grade 5, will feature a weekly contest and fun prizes to win. "YNK: You Never Know," the reading club for teens entering grades 6-12, features a grand prize at each branch – a choice between an I-Pod Shuffle or a mall gift certificate.

### 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* – Wednesdays, 11:00 am, June 20–July 25 (except July 4)

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

*Plainfield* – Thursdays, 10:00 am, June 14–July 26  
*Comstock Park* – Mondays, 10:30 am, July 2-23

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

*Plainfield* – Thursdays, 10:00 am, June 14–July 26  
*Comstock Park* – Mondays, 10:30 am, July 2-23

**Play-Grow-Read Make & Take** – Crafts that support pre-reading skills for parents and kids age 5 and under.

*Plainfield* – Wednesday, June 13 at 11:00 am

### **For Ages 6 and Up....**

**Ruff Readers** – A unique program that pairs kids with trained therapy dogs who love to be read to.

*Plainfield* – Mondays, 6:30 pm, June 11 – July 30

*Comstock Park* – Thursdays, 6:30 pm, June 14 to July 5

**Solve It! Become a Super Sleuth** – Help Katie L find her lost library book.

*Plainfield* – Monday, June 18, 10:00 am

**Dig it Up! Mysteries from the Past** – Create a pyramid, get mummified, make your own fossil, and more.

*Plainfield* – Monday, July 16, 10:00 am

*Comstock Park* – Monday, June 18 at 1:00 pm

**Detect it!** – Use all 5 of your sleuthing senses!

*Plainfield* – Thursday, August 2, 10:00 am

### **For All Ages...**

**Ulysses the Frisbee Dog** – Ulysses and his trainer will be showing off their exhilarating Frisbee routine, plus giving tips on dog training/care.

*Plainfield* – Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 pm

**Secret Code Comedy Show** – Help Joel Tacy and Detective Dewey find clues to solve the mystery in the library amid comedy, juggling, and lots of fun.

*Plainfield* – Thursday, June 21, 6:30 pm

**Naturally Wild** – Enjoy an informative, hands on experience with amazing reptiles.

*Plainfield* – Thursday, June 28, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Monday, June 25, 6:30 pm

**Bubbleology** – The amazing Geoff Atkins will create caterpillars, smoke-filled volcanoes, a fully functioning merry-go-round, and even squares out of bubbles.

*Plainfield* – Wednesday, July 18, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Tuesday, July 17, 1:00 pm

### **More For All Ages...**

**Trick Kicks** – Hackey-sack world champion Greg Nelson demonstrates his amazing skills.

*Plainfield* – Thursday, August 2, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Tuesday, July 10, 1 pm

**Pet Show** – Bring your pet and win a special award at this favorite annual event.

*Comstock Park* – Monday, July 23, 1 pm

**Discover it! Science Mysteries** – Have you ever wondered how a bridge can support the weight of a car? Come join us in some simple science experiments to learn why some things work the way they do.

*Comstock Park* – Monday, July 30, 1:00 pm

### **And just for teens...**

**Teen Focus Group** – Share some good food and your thoughts and ideas about the library.

*Plainfield* – Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 pm

**Candlemaking** – Learn the ins and outs of this beautiful craft.

*Plainfield* – Tuesday, June 26, 6:30 pm

**Pizza Taste-Off** – Sample pizza from local places and vote for your favorite.

*Plainfield* – Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Thursday, June 21, 1:00 pm

**T-Shirt Chic** – Bring a favorite t-shirt and we'll provide everything you need to turn it into something cool.

*Plainfield* – Tuesday, July 24, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Thursday, July 26 at 1:00 pm

**K-9 ONE Search and Rescue Dogs** – See these amazing dogs in action and learn how they find people at disaster sites or in the wilderness.

*Plainfield* – Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 pm

*Comstock Park* – Thursday, July 12, 6:30 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.

# Will Plainfield Charter Township have an election in August and/or November 2007?

**T**wo more state mandated election dates remain in 2007: August 7 and November 6. Will there be an election on either of these dates for residents of Plainfield Charter Township? It is too early to know if there will be issues for our electorate because there are filing deadlines for each of the elections. After the filing deadlines, we will know if there is a ballot issue for the voters of Plainfield Charter Township.

It is possible that there will be an election in other communities in Kent County but not in Plainfield Charter Township. For example, many cities will have elections in November but Plainfield Charter Township will not unless a special subject is authorized to be placed on a ballot. If you ever won-

der whether or not there is an election in Plainfield Charter Township please call the Clerk's office at 364-8466. We will be happy to answer your questions.

**Voter Turnout Results from the Election on May 8, 2007**

Precinct number	Total votes cast
1 .....	157
2 .....	90
3 .....	95
4 .....	144
5 .....	175
6 .....	95
7 .....	161
8 .....	208
9 .....	173
10 .....	96
11 .....	159
Absent Voters (all precincts combined) <u>1530</u>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3083</b>

If you are one of the 3,148 people who are already on the permanent absent voter list, you will always receive an application for an absent voter ballot before each election. If there are election issues which are scheduled for the August 7 or November 6 election dates you will receive the applications for each one separately.

If you are not one of the 3,148 people already on the permanent absent voter list but would like to be put on the list please call 364-8466 and ask to

be placed on the permanent absent voter list. It makes voting so much more convenient.

## Plainfield Offers Passport Photos

**I**n addition to being a Passport Acceptance Agency Plainfield Charter Township now takes passport photos. The photos cost \$8.00 for two photos. They meet the exact specifications for the size and quality which are required by the US Department of State.

Passports are processed during regular business hours. Applications may be completed at the township or downloaded from [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Bring your birth certificate with a raised seal on it, your photo identification, and two personal checks or money

orders. Please call 364-8466 if you have any questions about passports. Adult passports cost \$67.00. Children 16 years and younger cost \$52.00. There is an execution fee of \$30.00 for each passport. All fees are set by the US Department of State and will be the same regardless of where you apply for the passport.

Beginning in 2008 all US citizens will need a passport to enter Canada and Mexico. Passports are valid for 10 years. If you have any questions please call the Clerk's office at 364-8466.



## Message from the Supervisor

### **EFFORTS = RESULTS**

**EFFORTS = RESULTS** is a phrase used by a noted professional basketball player. He is of

the mindset that too many individuals in their daily lives or in their professional careers still need to exert more *EFFORT* in order receive more *RESULTS*. In other words, become involved. Put forth an effort – big or small, to enjoy the results that you had a hand in accomplishing. Most people exert this effort only

when something is happening to them that they perceive as being detrimental or disturbing to their comfort zone.

We also need the effort of those people who are positively affected by such a happening to ensure fair results to all. The effort of support has long-lasting results and in many circumstances could even change someone’s thought process, providing for well-balanced decision.

Bottom line, when a controversial issue is being deliberated that affects you, please put forth the effort to participate, either positively or negatively. Your *EFFORTS* will equal *RESULTS*.

*George K. Meek, Supervisor*

## 2007 Versluis Park Seasonal Opening

**V**ersluis Park opened for the season on Sunday, May 27, 2007. The beach will be open daily during the summer from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. with all other areas of the park open from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Purchase your park pass at the park.  
Rates are as follows:

Plainfield Township resident seasonal pass sticker	\$15.00
Non-resident season pass sticker (new this year)	\$75.00
Daily car pass	\$8.00

If you have any questions, you may call the Parks Department at (616) 364-1197.



## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- In our ongoing effort to insure accurate property records, assessing department staff will be in neighborhoods throughout the summer. There will be notification by letter to the homeowners in the neighborhoods selected for review. The assessing department staff will be properly identified and driving a township vehicle most times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

- If you have purchased a new home, NEW applications for a **Principal Residence Exemption** (formerly "Homestead Exemption") must be filed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://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 As-

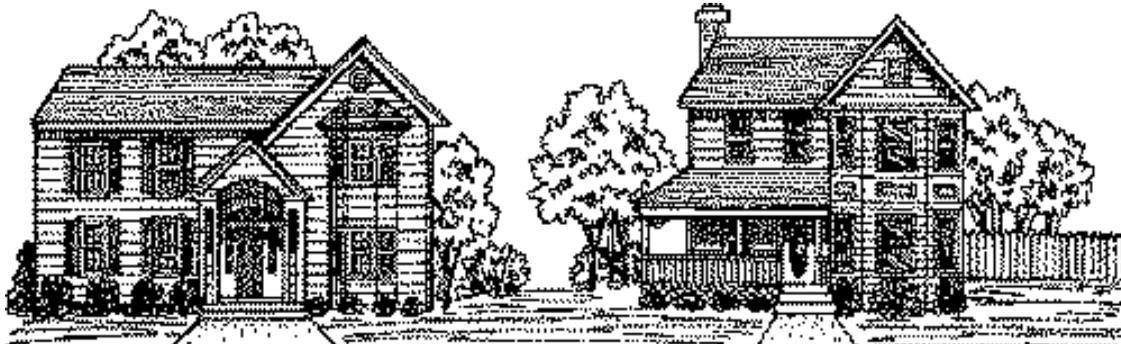
essor, by State law (Sec 27(5) of the General Property Tax Act), is not permitted to set the assessed value at one half of your purchase price.

- 2007 Residential Assessments (**Assessed Value**) were increased an average of 3%, and the **Taxable Value** for 2007 was increased by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 3.7%. 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 or decreases, 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 2.56 billion with over 14,000 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



# 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. For more information on this program visit [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com).



## 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?

Kent County operates two recycling drop-off sites for their residents. The Kentwood Recycling Center and North Kent Transfer Station accept plastics, paper, glass, metals, and cardboard. For more information call -888-217-2850 or 616-336-2570.

## 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.

2908 Ten Mile Road, Rockford  
Fridays, 9 am – 12 pm

5068 Breton Road, Kentwood  
Tuesdays, 3 – 6 pm

1500 Scribner Avenue, Grand Rapids  
Mondays, 1 - 4 pm  
Wednesdays, 9 am – 12 pm

2350 Ivanrest Avenue, Grandville  
Call 616-261-3564 for an appointment

# A Citizen's Guide to Auto Care



**H**ow 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.
- Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.

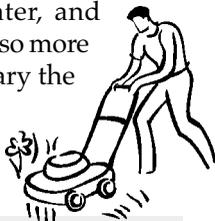
<b><i>Product</i></b>	<b><i>Better Alternative</i></b>
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean and baby oil to polish
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, and "elbow grease"
Paint 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 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.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

### Online Check Processing...

The Treasurer's office purchased some 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 seven 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 when you submit your check to the Township. In the old days we had 3 days of 'float'. The float is gone.

### County tax shift...

The last shift of the Kent County Operating tax happens this year. Starting in 2005, the County Operating tax was shifted from the winter bill to the summer bill. Overall this did not mean an increase to the County Operating tax since a portion was shifted to the summer was reducing your winter bill by 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.

### Recap of 2006 collections...

The Township collected over 96.5% of taxes prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 4%. If you experienced any problems during the tax year, please contact me at 726-8892 and we will discuss them.

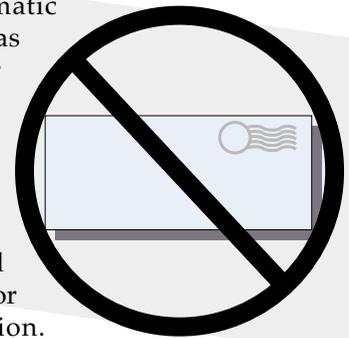
### 2007 tax bill...

The 2007 summer tax bill should be in the mail near the end of July with the due date of September 14<sup>th</sup>. None of the local schools had a voted millage increase; KISD remains the same if not a little less and the Community College additional millage was not approved.

### 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 Pam 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!



### 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 preparation of the tax bill.

*Jim Stover, Treasurer*



## Hyser House Fall History Event

**P**lease come and join us for the Fall Open House on Saturday and Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon-5:00 p.m. Take a trip back in time and learn about some Plainfield Charter Township History and tour the historical Hyser House. A few crafters will be out on the lawn, and next door the “Living History Encampment” will be taking place. The Hyser House is located at 6440 West River Drive.

### HISTORICAL STORY COLLECTING

The Hyser House Historical Committee is collecting personal stories to add to its collection of Plainfield Township history. If you have a story that you would like to share, please send it along with your name, address and phone number to: Plainfield Charter Township, Attention: Historical Committee, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont, MI 49306. If you would prefer to put your story on tape, you may give Cathy Beattie a call at (616) 866-6138 and a date and time can be arranged to make this happen.

The Hyser House Museum is open the first Sunday of the month,  
May through December from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m..

## Friends of the Plainfield Library

**A**s always, Friends of the Plainfield Library appreciate your donations of books for their ongoing book sales, which help to supplement operations at the Plainfield Branch. **The next sale is scheduled for Friday, September 7 through Monday, September 10, 2007.** The Friends of the Plainfield Library is incorporated as a 501 c (3) tax exempt, non-profit group with a membership of around one hundred individuals and families. Please consider joining the Friends

through a tax-deductible membership donation. It's an easy way to make a difference in your community and library. The Plainfield Township Library greatly appreciates the tremendous support of the Friends and its core of active volunteers who work so hard to organize fundraising events. Membership applications are available at the Plainfield Branch.

**Did you know?** The Plainfield Branch Library welcomes over 1000 people on an average day.

# PLAINFIELD FD FIRE DEPARTMENT

If you have had occasion to phone the Fire Department lately, you may have noticed that we have survived a changing of the guard. The chiefs' long time administrative assistant, Ruth Plambeck, retired in October. The opportunity to travel and spend time with her family was too great a lure, and she has been enjoying her new-found freedom. We miss her, but wish her the best!

Replacing Ruth was a challenge; however, we have found another gem! Rebekah VanBeek started with us just prior to the first of the year. She is a graduate of Calvin College and has worked in several different fields (literally) prior to coming to the Fire Department. She has learned the requirements of her position quickly, shown good common sense and a true interest in the welfare of the community. We anticipate Rebekah remaining with us for years to come.



Another huge plus to the Fire Department and the community has been the work accomplished by our Fire Safety Specialist, Rob Quist. Rob returned to work as a Fire Safety Specialist following a lengthy recuperation from an on-the-job injury. He has worked very hard to

become certified as a fire inspector through the State of Michigan as part of his preparation for his new job duties insuring that the commercial buildings and places of assembly in the Township are up to code. Rob has shown a high level of dedication and determination, doing a job that may not be appreciated by everyone. I can assure you that, through the considerable efforts of our Fire Safety Bureau, we are a safer place to live, work, and play compared to many communities in Michigan.



The last issue that I want to mention is the Fire Department's master plan. As the Township's population has grown, so have the demands on the Fire Department. I think we have adapted well to these changing circumstances, but we consider it wise to include the community while formulating plans to handle the increased demands on the fire service in Plainfield Township.

Slightly over a year ago we initiated an effort to develop a comprehensive plan for our future operations to make sure that we are providing the highest level of service to the taxpayers with the money we spend. To that end,

we have been collecting and assimilating information. As a template, we are using the Fire and Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual developed by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Formed in 1996 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International City-County Management Association, the Center was originally known as the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc. The manual results from a review and development process centered on the 10 categories that guide modern fire and emergency service agencies:

- Governance and Administration
- Assessment and Planning
- Goals and Objectives
- Financial Resources
- Programs
- Physical Resources
- Human Resources
- Training and Competency
- Essential Resources
- External Systems Relationships

Committees were formed to review our compliance with the requirements of the Assessment Manual. When the assessment is completed, all of the documents will be available

in an electronic format so that, where appropriate, the information will be available on the department's web site, [www.plainfieldfire.org](http://www.plainfieldfire.org).

There are three significant steps to complete before we publish the master plan. We need to involve the membership of the department in a review of the results, include community (your) input, and propose adoption of a "Standard of Response Coverage" by the Township Board. We plan to invite representatives from community groups, associations, businesses, industries and schools to educate them and discuss the department's operations; and we look forward to the adoption of a desired plan for the future of the department. If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please call our office. Upon completion of this process, a recommendation for a response standard will be brought to the Township Board. A response standard basically sets a goal for the amount of time that it will take the department to respond to an incident.

These efforts will assure Plainfield Township residents that the fire department is providing the type and quality of service that the community desires.

*David Peterson, Fire Chief*

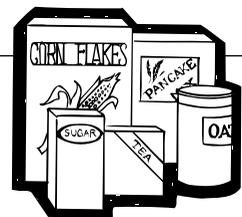
## Commodity Distribution

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

- June 7, 2007
- September 6, 2007
- December 6, 2007
- March 6, 2008

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

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



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

## The Profile

Plainfield Charter Township

6161 Belmont NE

Belmont, MI 49306

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GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
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