

THE PROFILE

*PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 2

PHONE 364-8466

MARCH 2004

I am introducing a new series of PROFILE articles centered on the theme that is the title of this article. Many residents of our community do not know much about local government – particularly township government. What they do know typically relates to paying taxes, voting in elections, or getting a permit to build something. People in Plainfield Township also recognize some connection with local government when they pay water and sewer bills, see fire equipment on the street, participate in a senior citizens program, buy a cemetery lot, visit a Township park, or somehow get involved in a rezoning issue. That just about sums it up for most people. Meanwhile, the elected Board of Trustees, various commissions, committees, boards, and the Township's employees are working quietly and diligently to help make Plainfield Township a better place to live, work, and do business. We feel good when the only stories in the newspapers are stories of positive change and good news about things happening here.

Because Plainfield Township is a growing area,

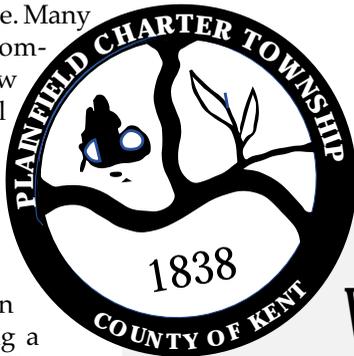
new development and new homes often create tension and anxiety among property owners who feel that the "rural" nature of their neighborhood is disappearing. When a rezoning occurs or a new plat is proposed, large numbers of citizens sometimes show up at the

public hearings. They are concerned about the impact of these new developments on their property – especially if they think the development will increase traffic or is a threat to their property values. Except for occasional flurries of interest like this, we find citizens rarely become involved and become aware of Plainfield Township's role and responsibilities in the growth and development of this community.

In just two short paragraphs, I have nearly covered what Plainfield Township government means to most of its residents. Cities and villages typically provide a whole lot

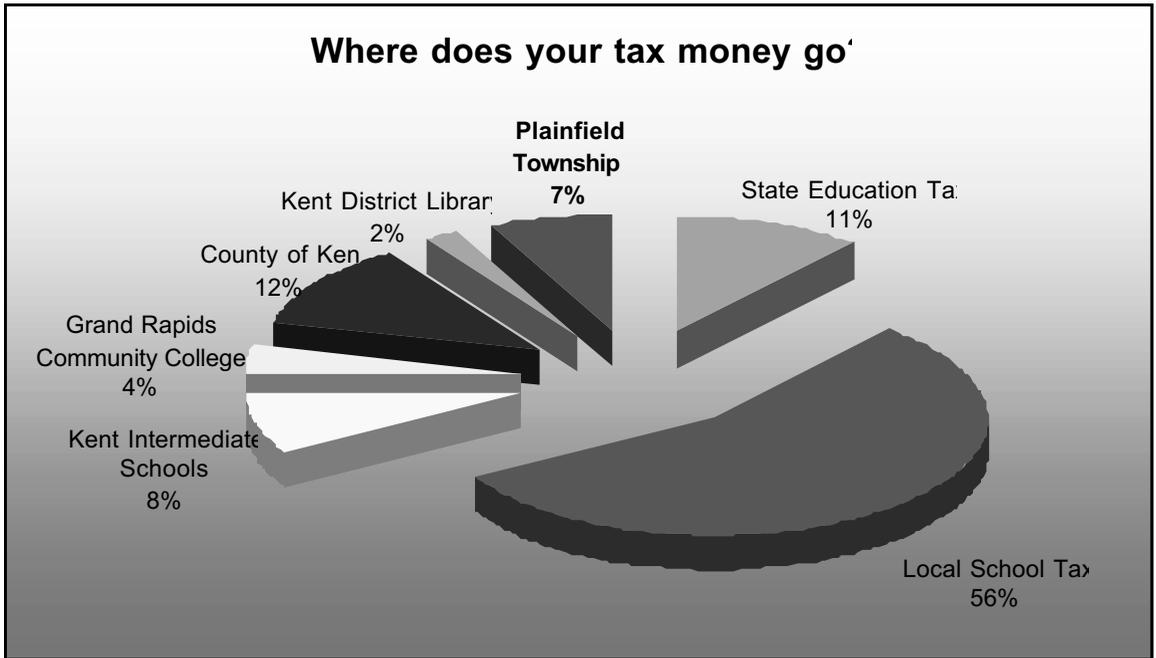
more services. They are responsible for maintaining and improving their streets. Many maintain extensive parks systems, operate recreation programs, provide substantial fire and police departments, and get involved in property maintenance code enforcement. They often house and fund district court operations,

continued on page 2



What is Plainfield Township Government All About ?

Where does your tax money go?



What is Plainfield Township Government All About?

continued from page 1

maintain drainage ways, and operate any number of other programs. They also charge higher rates of local taxes. For example, Wyoming levies over 10 mills in property taxes. Grand Rapids collects nearly 8 mills and has a 1.3% city income tax. Rockford charges about nearly 11 mills. Plainfield Township's property tax was about 2.75 mills for the past ten years. This year it rose from 2.85 to 3.31 mills to begin paying off the loan to build the new fire station on Plainfield Avenue at 5 Mile Road.

If you own a home valued at \$150,000, you paid about \$224 in property taxes last year and about \$249 this year for Plainfield Township government. The rest went to the other local taxing districts. Above is a pie chart showing where your property tax dollars go.

My point is this: Plainfield Township government receives relatively little in direct local taxes. This is especially true compared to "full service" municipalities. That does not mean what we do is unimportant; it means that our

services may not be nearly as extensive as, say, Rockford, Grandville, Kentwood, or Wyoming. So what are the public services that Plainfield Township provides and what do they cost?

Plainfield Township's largest activities – public water and sewer services — are not funded by local taxes; they are funded by user charges. We produce and distribute our own water, spending about \$3,000,000 last year. Sewer collection and treatment cost about \$2,200,000. The Township's General Fund is supported by local property taxes – about \$2,300,000 – that are 41% of the total General Fund revenue. Another 41% comes from revenue sharing from the State of Michigan. The largest activity in the General Fund is the Fire Department, for which we will spend about \$2,140,000 this year. We will pay the Kent County Sheriff about \$380,000 for extra police patrol services.

Would it surprise you that Rockford, with a population of less than 5,000, collects almost \$2,000,000 in property taxes for its General Fund? Consider the table on the next page:

MUNICIPALITY	POPULATION	GENERAL FUND	PER CAPITA	MILLAGE RATE
Wyoming	69,368	\$34,000,000	\$490	\$ 8.56/\$1000
Kentwood	45,255	23,000,000	508	\$ 7.53/\$1000
Grandville	16,263	9,470,000	582	\$ 7.30/\$1000
Rockford	4,626	2,678,368	579	\$10.90/\$1000
Plainfield Township	30,195	\$ 6,280,000	\$208	\$ 3.31/\$1000

If you live in or own property in Plainfield Township, you get good and cost-effective “basic” services. You also get a low property tax rate for township government. In a nutshell, that is what we are all about. Granted, there is a whole lot more that your local government can get into in terms of providing local government services, but doing so will cost money. We all know where that money would come from – property taxes. Over the years, your elected officials have accepted the overall mandate from their voters that they want good, but

low-cost, government that keeps its property tax rate low. That’s what we do, and we think we are doing it well.

Now that I have presented the overall picture of Plainfield Township government, future articles will sharpen the focus by featuring operating departments and explaining the services they produce for our community. Look for more in the next PROFILE. If you can’t wait, try our website (www.plainfieldchartertp.org) and learn more.

Robert C. Homan, Township Manager



Important News from Your Kent County Sheriff’s Department

Protecting Your Vehicle and Personal Property

In the first few months of 2004, Plainfield Township has seen a rash of car larcenies. Most of the victims had left their car unlocked. Items taken ranged from loose change to cell phones and purses. There were also a few cases of windows being broken out. The Kent County Sheriff’s Department has made arrests in connection with some of these larcenies, but the arrests we have made have not accounted for all the cases we have seen. I have come up with a few safety tips to help you avoid being a victim of this type of crime.

- Keep items out of plain view — CD’s, briefcases, purses, etc.
- Don’t leave your car running while unlocked. (Keep a spare set of keys handy.)
- Take note of suspicious activity in your neighborhood and report it to the Sheriff’s Department.

- Lock your car doors! **Lock your car doors!**
LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!
- Remove valuable items from your vehicle.
- Park in the garage and lock your garage door. If this is not an option, park in the driveway or under a streetlight

If you have been a victim of a crime, please call 336-3113 to have an officer respond to your home to file a report with the Sheriff’s Department. For additional safety tips, call the Kent County Sheriff Department Community Services Unit at 632-6221 or call Deputy Keith Kazelskis, Plainfield Township community police officer at 632-6228.

Your cooperation and proactive measures will make a difference.

Keith Kazelskis, Deputy Sheriff

Please Vote Absentee If You Qualify

If you are over the age of 60, physically unable to attend the polls, or expect to be out of the township on election days, you may vote absentee. I especially encourage you to do so for the municipal elections in 2004. The absentee ballot mailed to you is exactly the same as the ballot that appears on the screens at the precincts. You can vote at your leisure, review candidates and issues, and return the ballot when you have made your decisions. You won't have to deal with long lines at the polls or possible inclement weather. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Clerk's office before Election Day.

Plainfield Charter Township maintains a permanent list of more than 1800 people who qualify and have elected to vote absentee. An absentee voter application is mailed to these people for each municipal election. You may decide whether you wish to vote absentee or go to the polls. This is just an application, and no ballots are mailed until an application is received. Applications may be faxed to you and faxed back to the Clerk's office.

Absentee Ballot security is prescribed by law and carefully followed in the Clerk's office. Each applicant's signature is checked when the application is received. The ballots are mailed within one day of receiving the application. When a completed ballot is returned, it remains sealed and secure until Election Day, when the Absent Voter Counting Board, using specific regulations to protect the secrecy of each ballot, opens it. The name of the voter is never

matched with a voted ballot. Election law is very specific on this subject.

Voting absentee will help the operation of the precincts. Past elections have proven that absentee voting assists with reducing the lines in the precincts. In the General Election of 2004, the precincts operated so efficiently that results began to be received in the Clerk's office at 8:11 pm....only 11 minutes after the polls closed.

Please vote absentee if you qualify. An application may be received by:

- Calling 364-8466 and asking for an absent voter ballot application to be mailed.
- Printing an application from the township web site, www.plainfieldchartertp.org
- Coming into Township Hall at 6161 Belmont Avenue to pick up an application.

Please take special note that applications offer a two-for-one option. You may check to receive an absentee ballot for the Primary Election on August 3 and the General Election on November 2, 2004, by checking both columns at the top of the application. Ballots for both elections will be mailed on the first day the law permits. If you ask for both, there is no need to reapply for the November General Election.

Thank you for your cooperation on this project. It makes the operation of the precincts function very smoothly on election days.

*Susan L. Morrow, MMC
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk*

Prepare for 2004 elections: Check your voter registration on line.

In preparation for a busy election year in 2004, you may want to check your voter registration online. Please go to www.publius.com and enter your first and last name. Follow the instructions to receive information about your registration and your polling location. On the same screen with your personal information, you may click on "Instructions" to see operating instructions for the Unilect DRE voting equipment, a copy of the ballot when it is ready, and a calendar of election dates to remember. Of course, you may also call the Clerk's office, 364-8466, to verify your registration. *Please make a point to check your registration in advance of any election day, especially General Elections. Remember, if you are not registered 30 days before an election, you cannot vote.*

Precinct 4 moves to Fire Training Center

Plainfield Charter Township Precinct #4, which formerly voted at the Plainfield Library on Five Mile Road, will move to the Fire Training Center, 4383 Plainfield Avenue for all municipal elections beginning with the Primary Election on August 3, 2004. This, of course, includes the General Election on November 2, 2004. All voters in Precinct #4 will receive a new voter registration card. All precincts in Plainfield Township are barrier-free.

Interested in running for Township Office?

Nominating packets are available in the Clerk's office for individuals interested in running for township office in November 2004. All terms are four-year terms. The following offices will be elected: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees. Packets include nominating petitions, filing deadline information, and circulation requirements. The Clerk's office is open from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The filing deadline for partisan nominating petitions is May 11, 2004 at 4:00 pm. If anyone has any questions regarding this subject please call the Clerk's office at 364-8466.



Free Tree Program 2004

In an effort to encourage reforestation of the land within Plainfield Township's boundaries, two evergreen trees will be given to the first 400 residents who call to place an order. The number of trees has been reduced in conjunction with budget cuts. If you received trees or bushes in the past, please consider waiting for another year when the Township is able to restore this program to its previous level.

Trees MUST be preordered by calling 364-8466 beginning at 9:00 am on April 20, 2004 until all trees are reserved, which usually takes about one hour!! NO FAX ORDERS OR WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

The random use of six telephone lines has been a fair way for everyone to have a chance to get a tree. Only ONE tree order per address, per call will be accepted. The trees will be available for pickup on **Friday, April 30th** between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm **ONLY**. Trees that are not picked up will be used in Township projects. Participants will be given two trees, which come in one-gallon pots, 12 to 18 inches tall with 6 years of growth.

Trees are distributed from the Township Office located at 6161 Belmont Avenue. Please enter the Township Office driveway and follow the directions of the people assisting with the traffic flow.

The Officers and Trustees of the Township encourage interested residents to participate in this program. This is the 15th year of the program.

Susan L. Morrow, MMC
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

Information! Ideas! Excitement! These words from the KDL mission statement sum up the variety of free resources and experiences available to you at your local library. Stop in and ask us to show you around!

Watch for these upcoming special programs, and please join us. Call the library for specific times, or check the events calendar on the KDL Homepage (www.kdl.org).

For Young Children and Families (to register please call the library)

Spring Laptime programs begin the week of March 29. Stories, music and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their parents.

Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 am and 10:45 am

Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 am

Spring Storytime programs also begin the week of March 29. Stories and crafts for ages 3-6.

Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 am and 10:45 am

Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm

Other programs for children include Family Storytimes, Pajama Storytimes, “Craft Craze,” “Barnyard Live,” “Fairy Magic,” “Wiggle with the Wiggles, and “Become a Super Hero.”

Just for Teens

Spring programs include Teen Advisory Board meetings at both branches as well as a Teen Café and a Cartooning Workshop at the Plainfield branch.

Especially For Adults

Both library branches welcome you to join our monthly “no-pressure” book discussion groups, where you can relax and talk about books with other avid readers. Call your branch for a list of upcoming titles and dates—and give it a try!

Did you know that everybody in Kent County is reading the same book this spring? It’s called *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*. The author, Alexander McCall Smith, will be speaking at the Kentwood Schools Fine Arts auditorium, 6230 Kalamazoo Ave, SE. on April 26 at 7 pm.

Other upcoming adult programs include “Feng Shui in the Garden,” and “Woodcarving.” In addition, the Friends of the Plainfield Library are sponsoring a luncheon program on Ireland featuring Mary Jane Dockery, “Covered Bridges and One Room Schools” (a slide show), and “Spotting Birds in Your Backyard using Optical Aids.”

COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
3943 West River Drive • Phone: 647-3860
HOURS

Monday	9:30 am. to 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday	12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday, Saturday	12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

PLAINFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY
2650 5-Mile Road NE • Phone: 647-3930
HOURS

Mon. through Thurs.	9:30 am to 9:00 pm
Friday, Saturday	9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Book Sales

Both branches will be hosting used book sales this spring. Plainfield's sale, offered by the Friends, will be held March 26-29. Comstock Park's sale will be on June 5. Donations of gently used materials are welcome at both branches.

A New Database

On our website, www.kdl.org, we provide several wonderful databases exclusively for KDL patrons. Some of them provide research materials for students of all ages, while others are for individuals with a wide variety of interests and needs. One of the newest is called "Testing and Education Reference Center." It includes test preparation practice for college/graduate school admissions, exams to help

users earn college credit, civil service/licensing exams and military entrance exams, plus the G.E.D.

Summer Reading Club

This year's club, "Discover New Worlds at your Library," begins June 14, and as we head into summer, library programs will include puppet shows, ventriloquists and many other exciting shows for youth of all ages.

Millage Vote

KDL's 4 year millage expires at the of the year, and this August all voters in the Kent District Library area will be asked to decide whether or not to continue supporting the library with tax dollars. Please remember this important election!

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Access your property tax information (especially helpful during tax preparation) ONLINE!

"How much did I pay in property taxes for 2003?" We hear this question many times a day during tax season. That information can now be found at www.plainfieldchartertp.org, the Plainfield Charter Township website. On the left side is a banner with the hyperlink "Property Information." By clicking that link you will go to the database that has current and prior years tax information along with assessments. (No User Name or Password are required.) That same information can be accessed via telephone by dialing 1-800-846-8725. Input the Plainfield Township property code which is 4110.

Pay your taxes easier.....

The use of automatic debit payment has been available for several years and is working very nicely. Please call 364-1188, extension 114, for further information or to sign up for this payment option. Tax payments will automatically be taken from your financial institution and paid to the Township. No stamps! No late penalty fees! No lost mail!



Your taxes paid from a mortgage escrow account...

For various reasons, a number of taxpayers are refinancing or restructuring their mortgage. If this event occurs after May (for the summer tax bill) or November (for the winter tax bill) 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 send the tax bill to the mortgage company on record at the time of preparation of the tax bill.

Jim Stover, Treasurer

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- **Parks & Recreation Master Plan**
- **Public Information/**
- **Public Input Meeting**
- All township residents interested in planning for future township parks and recreation facilities are encouraged to attend.
- **Wednesday, May 5, 2004, 7:00 pm**
- **Plainfield Twp. Hall, 6161 Belmont Ave.**

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WHITE PINE TRAIL UPDATE

SPRING 2004

By Richard Granse, Friends of the White Pine Trail

A new season is about to begin on the White Pine Trail, though the trail saw an increased amount of winter activity with walkers, skiers, snow shoeing and even sled dog teams working out. The latest addition to the trail is the completion of the Wolverine Bypass in Rockford. It is now possible for trail users to travel through Rockford on paved trail, by the Wolverine Plant, to the northern section of the trail north of Rockford. There is a total of almost 14 miles of paved trail extending from North Park Street in Comstock Park to Russell Road, 2 miles south of Cedar Springs. At North Park Street, the trail is continuous with the Grand Rapids Riverside Park Trail providing another 2 miles of trail.

The Friends of the White Pine Trail recently completed an agreement with the DNR to provide volunteer maintenance assistance for the entire 93-mile trail, exclusive of municipalities that do their own trail maintenance. The Friends provided considerable assistance last year with mowing, clean-ups, brush cutting, signage repair, etc., and will do so again this season.

The Friends have been granted coordinating and scheduling duties by the DNR for other volunteer groups wishing to assist with trail maintenance or other trail amenity projects. In encouraging volunteer assistance, The Friends have taken on the added responsibility of ensuring that work on the trail proceeds in a coordinated manner and that duplication is avoided. **Groups or individuals that want to assist can contact The Friends as listed below. There is more than enough work for all who wish to participate.**

Another exciting opportunity to enjoy and help the trail is the **Trail Courtesy Patrol** under the direction of the Kent County Sheriff Community Services Division. Now in its fourth season, this activity consists of volunteer citizen patrollers who bike, walk or rollerblade the trail at scheduled times to provide assistance and safety to trail users. Those interested should contact Ms. Sandi Jones at the Community Services Department at 632-6221. An orientation meeting will be held in April, and attendance is required for new as well as previous members of the Courtesy Patrol.

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Friends of the White Pine Trail Meeting Schedule:

Trail updates and info will be available at all meetings

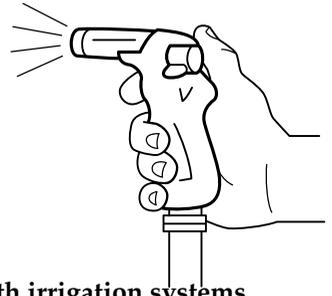
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|-------------------|--|
| April 14: 7:00 pm | Plainfield Township Hall – Special Presentation by Richard Sulin
<i>“Historic Old Mills” (Free, but seating limited to 120 persons)</i> |
| May 12: 7:00 pm | Cedar Springs Area – <i>call 866-8464 for exact location</i> |
| June 9: 7:00 pm | Krause Memorial Library, Downtown Rockford |
| July 14: 7:00 pm | Comstock Park Library |

Regular Work Day Schedule: First Saturday of Month -9 am starting May 1.
(Meet at the parking area by the trail just north of Arnie’s Restaurant in Rockford)

CONTACT INFO

Friends of the White Pine Trail: (616) 866-8464, P.O. Box 159, Belmont 49306
DNR: Manager for the trail at Mitchell State Park: (231) 775-7911

Water Department News



As this issue of the *Profile* goes to press, lawns and plants are buried under deep snow. The snow will be gone soon, replaced by spring sunshine, green lawns and flowers. The Water Department staff are also thinking about summer – and are asking you to consider water used for landscaping.

Our water system is well able to meet the needs of the community. We have plenty of water to use. There is not enough to waste. With your cooperation, we will always have enough water for everyone and postpone the expense of water plant expansion for the next ten to twenty years.

Spring is the time to check your irrigation system. Are any of the sprinkler heads broken, missing, or aimed wrong? Adjust them to deliver the correct amount of water to the areas that need it. Have your system checked by an expert and repaired if necessary. You can save water and dollars with a properly operating irrigation system.

For all customers

- Water longer and less often
- Use a rain gauge. A healthy lawn needs only about one inch per week.
- Time of day. Lawn experts advise that early morning is the best time to water lawns and plants. If we water when it's dark, the plants stay damp longer, which can cause mildew and mold. Conversely, if we water during the day the moisture can evaporate before it soaks in.
- Direct the water so that it stays off the street, driveway and sidewalk

For customers with irrigation systems

- Install rain and wind sensors. These additions are relatively inexpensive and can actually save money.
- Flow rate (gallons per minute): Set the system to water slower, longer and less often.
- Factor in rainfall in determining if the system should operate automatically or if you need to bypass the timer to prevent the system from turning on. (If no rain sensor)
- Time of day: Set the timer to turn the system on in the early morning (about sunrise) rather than during the night.
- Replace broken sprinkler heads. The Township water system has enough pressure to operate irrigation systems. If there are gaps in the coverage, chances are a sprinkler head is broken or needs adjusting.

For customers without irrigation systems

- Consider a soaker hose to water slower, longer and deeper. This also helps prevent water from going onto the driveway, street and sidewalk.
- Set a timer to remind you to move the hose.
- Factor in rainfall to determine if you need to water.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the water system in more detail, please call the Water Department at 363-9660. Office hours are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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Commodity Distribution

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

June 3, 2004
September 2, 2004
December 2, 2004

To qualify you must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road. Distribution is at 6156 Belmont Avenue (Rogelio's Pizza). Hours are 9:00 am – 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.

Plainfield Department

It is Saturday, and I have just returned from a fire. No one was injured, and the fire was extinguished in a relatively short amount of time, but it did significant damage to an apartment and ruined most of the family's personal belongings, which were uninsured. This is not intended to solicit sympathy or money for the family, or praise for the firefighters. I simply want to make you aware of a problem and a resource. The *problem* is children are fascinated with fire. In this case, it seems that a six-year-old child playing with a lighter set the fire. The *resource* available is **West Michigan Fire Match**.

West Michigan Fire Match is a program that was started by the fire service in Kent County several years ago. It has grown to include more professions and a larger area. The program, run through Spectrum Health, is intended to be a juvenile intervention, referral, and education program dedicated to educating children about fire and providing intervention and referral for children misusing fire. A committee that includes several members of the Plainfield Fire Department coordinates the program.

To participate in the program, you may contact Shelley Smith at (616) 774-7207, or call the Fire Department at (616) 361-2895. An appointment will be made for the child and their guardian, where someone who has been trained to evaluate these matters will talk to the family and determine what steps are necessary to help the family work through this challenge. Here are some interesting statistics from the United States Fire Administration:

- Curiosity fire-setters usually are 2-7 year olds, whose fascination with fire leads them to "play" with it to find out how it feels, how it burns, and what it does. They do not understand fire's destructive potential.

- Problem fire-setters can also be very young, but generally are 5-17 years old. In contrast to the curious fire-setter, however, these youngsters light fires because of emotional or mental disturbances ranging from mild to severe. A crisis in the child's life, such as moving to a new area, divorce, or death could trigger fire-setting behavior, or a more serious disturbance could be the cause. Chronic behaviors such as a poor relationship with other children, cruelty to animals, and extreme mood changes are a few of the traits that data on juvenile fire-setters has revealed.

Parents, teach your child about fire. Control your child's access to fire; keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Even a 2-year-old can operate a cigarette lighter. Never allow anyone to use lighters or matches in an unsafe manner in your home. Never leave stove or candle fires unattended (candles cause many fires.). Teach children to show you any unattended matches or lighters they find.

New Station Update - The Training Center is being used, and work is nearly complete (finally) on the new fire station. The training center has been a hit with students and instructors alike. It is comfortable, accommodates 60 students in the classroom, and provides instructors with the tools that they need to get information to the student. Plainfield Fire Department was awarded a \$65,262 *Assistance to Firefighters Grant* from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase furnishings, equipment, and educational materials for the training center. We anticipate moving into the new station by the first week in March. As I've written previously, this is a public facility to be proud of. There will be a Grand Opening event this spring.

Property Owners: DID YOU KNOW?

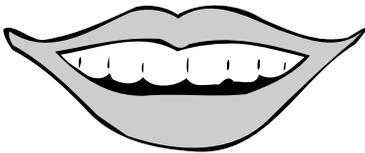
- If you have purchased a new home, **NEW** applications for a **Principal Residence Exemption** (formerly "Homestead Exemption") must be filed by May 1st. You do not have to file each year if you don't change your residence.
- It is your responsibility to review your assessing record card periodically to be sure you agree with all the information currently on record. You may go to the Township's website (www.painfieldchartertp.org) and click on property information to review your record.
- Your taxable value can never exceed you 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.
- 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.

- 2004 Residential Assessments (**Assessed Value**) were increased an average of 4%, and the **Taxable Value** for 2004 was increased by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 2.3%. 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.
- Plainfield Charter Township has a total property value (**True Cash Value**) of over 2 billion dollars with 12,333 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 at 364-8466.

*Judy LaFave, CMAE3
Assessor*



Run a Mile For a Smile

The Plainfield Township Fire Department will be hosting a certified 5-K run/walk, "RUN A MILE FOR A SMILE", and a pancake breakfast, on March 27, 2004. Race time will be 9:00 am with the pancake breakfast following at 10:00 am. Participants may register online at www.classicrace.com prior to race day, or 7:30 am on race day. The start/finish line and the pancake breakfast will be located at the Plainfield Fire Station #1, 6145 Belmont Avenue in Belmont, Michigan. The pancake breakfast is open to the public, with donations taken at the door.

All proceeds from the race and breakfast will go to support pediatric programs at the Spec-

trum Health Regional Burn Center, including Kids' Burn Camp and the West Michigan FIREmatch program, an intervention, referral and education program for juveniles. Plainfield Fire is very involved with the West Michigan FIREmatch Program, Burn Camps, and Education Programs. All of these programs are interrelated.

Please, show your support by registering for the race, attending the pancake breakfast or volunteering to help with the race or breakfast on race day. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, call Deputy Chief Don Bigger or Assistant Chief Steve McKellar at (616) 361-2895.

TOWNSHIP/ OFFICERS

TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Phone: 364-8466

TOWNSHIP BOARD

David Groenleer, Supervisor

Susan Morrow, Clerk

James Stover, Treasurer

Wendell Briggs, Trustee

Robert Heindrichs, Trustee

William Parris, Trustee

Charles Weldon, Trustee

MANAGER

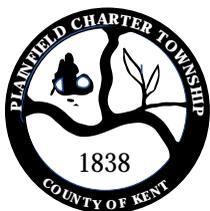
Robert Homan

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

7:30 pm

First and Third Mondays

www.plainfieldcharterwp.org



THE PROFILE

Plainfield Charter Township

6161 Belmont NE

Belmont, MI 49306

Hyser Rivers Museum News

The Hyser Rivers Museum is open the first Sunday of each month throughout the year except holidays. Tours are available upon request by calling the Plainfield Township Office at 364-8466.

Summer Schedule — all programs are 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and are free to the public

June 6	Genealogy Workshop
July 4	Closed for the holiday
July 11	Pioneer Craft Day (Doll maker, quilts, candle making, tin punch ornaments, and more
August 1	Dulcimer Band
September 5	Kids' Craft Day

A reporter for *The Michigan Traveler* will tour the Museum this summer to do research for an upcoming feature article.

If you are interested in displaying some of your smaller antiques in the case at the Township Offices, or if you have an questions regarding the Museum, please contact Sharon Wells at 784-7062. Meetings of the Historical Committee are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m., in the Museum at 6440 West River Drive, Belmont, MI 49306, and are open to anyone wishing to attend.

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