



The Profile

VOLUME XXXIII NUMBER 2

MARCH 2008

Last fall the employees of Plainfield Township participated in a brainstorming session to bring some new ideas forward for Board consideration. One idea, which was suggested by many employees, was a Farmer's Market. Space is now available on the site where the former township office was located, 6156 Belmont Avenue, Belmont (across the road from the present township hall).

Plans are underway to conduct a Farmer's Market beginning in June 2008. Space will be available to sell homemade baked goods, fruits and vegetables, and flowers and plants. No flea market booths will be permitted.

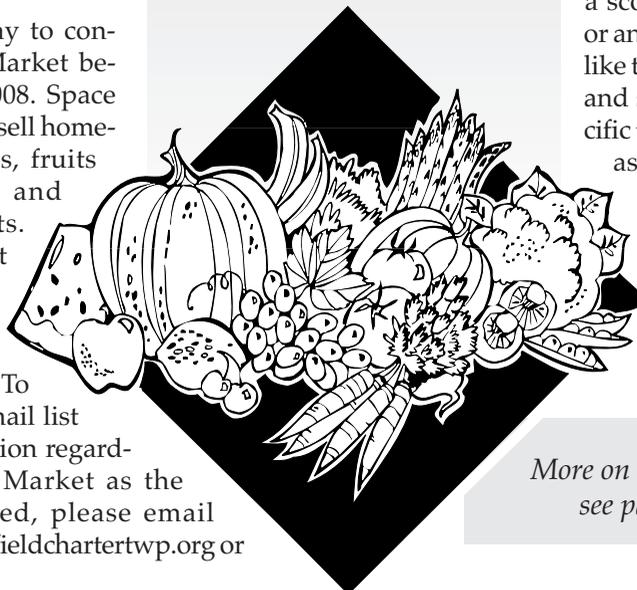
Are you interested? To be placed on an email list to receive information regarding the Farmer's Market as the plans are solidified, please email lindeboomg@plainfieldchartertp.org or

Farmer's Market to Begin in Plainfield Township

visit the township web site, www.plainfieldchartertp.org and click on Farmer's Market. We are eager to hear from folks who would be interested in participating. Participants do not need to be township residents. Final details, including times and dates, will appear on the web site and in the next *Profile*.

The Township would like to feature local groups at our Farmer's Market. If you have a scout troop, a church club, or any other group that would like to promote their activities and sell items which are specific to their organization such as cookbooks or cookies, please contact the township at either address mentioned above.

Susan L. Morrow,
MMC



More on Summer activities:
see pages 14 and 15

Words from Water...

The snow is melting away, the sunshine has returned, and the flowers have begun to bloom. Many of us are dragging out those rakes and hoses, tuning up our lawnmowers and have determined that this summer, we will have the best lawns ever!



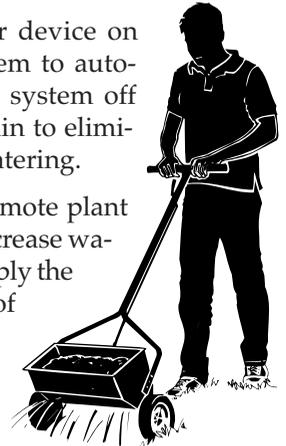
The Plainfield Township Water Department would like our residents to remember these simple techniques, products and ideas that can be used when considering the health, design and maintenance of your lawn. These simple techniques not only promote healthy landscapes, giving you that gorgeous

lawn, but will also help to conserve water and *save you money.*

- Check your sprinkler system frequently throughout the summer and adjust sprinkler heads so only your lawn is watered and NOT the house, sidewalk, or street. (This is a #1 water waster!)
- Use a rain gauge to track how much irrigation your yard receives. In the West Michi-

gan area, lawns only need 1" of water a week. This includes rainfall.

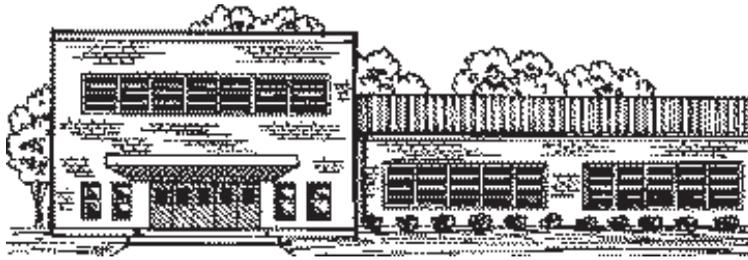
- Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways. Instead, plant shrubs and ground cover plants with rock and granite mulching.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass smothers weeds, has stronger roots and needs less water.
- Install a rain sensor device on your irrigation system to automatically shut your system off during periods of rain to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed. Please be sure to follow the directions closely when using fertilizers and/or pesticides to limit potential contamination of our ground and/or surface water.



Please remember...

"WE HAVE PLENTY OF WATER TO USE... WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WASTE."

For additional information on water conservation and protection, or more tips and techniques for your landscape, please contact the Plainfield Township Water Department at (616) 363-9660.



Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority

In April of 2007, the Plainfield Township Board of Trustees created a Corridor Improvement Authority (“CIA”) covering an area that includes 152 individual parcels of property along Plainfield Avenue from 4 Mile Road to Airway. The CIA operates like the Comstock Park Downtown Development Authority (DDA), except that its funding depends on the willingness of the contributing taxing authorities to allow their property taxes on the increased value (from 2006 to ??) of the 152 parcels to be captured. Tax Increment Financing is how the CIA can generate the money needed to accomplish the public improvements. In cooperation with Grand Rapids Township, which created its own CIA south of 4 Mile Road, a “tax sharing agreement” was negotiated with Kent County, which has consistently rejected participation in Tax Increment Financing Authorities (TIFAs) for many years. A similar agreement was reached with Grand Rapids Community College, which has consistently participated in TIFAs. The Kent District Library (KDL) has opted NOT to participate and has so far declined to participate in tax sharing agreements with Plainfield and Grand Rapids Townships.

When TIFAs are created, participating taxing units of government typically understand that a stagnant or depressed area of the community needs a boost, some extra assistance to turn things around and rejuvenate the area.

Why should the County, the GRCC, the KDL, or Plainfield Township want to see revenues it would normally collect be plowed back into

the CIA district? Because a rejuvenated area represents a benefit to everyone – even taxing government entities. If a stagnant area is turned around, property values will increase and will generate more taxes than would have been generated by simply leaving the place to die on the vine.

The keys to making this work are (1) generating enough resources to make a difference and (2) ensuring that, once the objectives are achieved, the TIFA will be dissolved, and all of the contributing taxing entities will receive increased tax revenues that would not have materialized without their participation. The tax sharing agreements assure this. Plainfield Township has secured concurrence from Kent County and GRCC, and we are hopeful that the KDL will be persuaded that *continuing* its participation in TIFAs makes long term good sense.

Meanwhile, the Plainfield Township and Grand Rapids Township CIA boards know that they have their work cut out for them and that sustained, patient, and determined attention to their combined missions is essential for success. Remember – good things do not “just happen” in local government; there are dedicated, hardworking, unrecognized individuals that make things happen. The understanding and support of the entire community is very important. Citizens of Plainfield Township should make it their business to know what is going on and to contribute whatever they can to make a positive impact on these efforts.

Comstock Park DDA Embarks on Major Improvement Project

What is the Comstock Park DDA? The Plainfield Township Board of Trustees created a Downtown Development Authority in 1993, using a state law that had existed since the mid-1970s. The City of Rockford has a DDA, as does Lowell, Grand Rapids, Cascade Township, Grandville, and other municipalities in Kent County. The DDA is a specialized entity governed by a Board of Directors chosen by the Township Board. The DDA doesn't make or enforce laws, doesn't collect its own taxes, and doesn't employ its own staff. It does have its own annual budget (approved by Plainfield Township), and it has certain powers spelled out in Public Act of 1976, and also in the local ordinance that created the DDA. The DDA exists for one purpose: To improve a defined area (the "downtown district") by establishing programs, eliminating blighted public or private structures, and constructing improvements to encourage economic activity in that district.

If they don't collect their own taxes, where do they get the money to do these things? They are allowed to "capture" the taxes of other jurisdictions (county, community college, libraries, township, etc.) that are collected on the increased value of the property in the district following the creation of the DDA. In the case of the Comstock Park DDA, for example, the initial value of property in the district was \$9,648,100 in 1993 (the "Base Year"), the value of the property in 2007 was \$28,897,256, so the difference, the increased value since 1993, is \$19,249,156. The combined tax rates of Kent County, Plainfield Township, Grand Rapids Community College, and the Kent District Library applied to \$19,249,156 amounts to \$197,050 for 2007. This method of funding the Comstock

Park DDA is called "tax increment financing" (TIF). The CP DDA saved nearly all of its annual funding from 1994-2003 to build up a reserve sufficient to construct the West River Drive streetscape and to rebuild the County Parking Lot across the street from Dwight Lydell Park five years ago. The DDA also contributed half the cost of building the new parking area behind the Comstock Park Library (Plainfield Township paid the other half).

Since 2003, besides building the new parking lot, the DDA provided the funds to purchase the 800-foot long railroad right-of-way from Vitale's to Lamoreaux Drugs. Plainfield Township negotiated a lease agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to enable the DDA to improve the old railroad right-of-way from Lamoreaux Drugs to Ball Park Drive north of US 131. These two important actions were needed for the DDA to make improvements to the ugly, pothole-filled strip from Mill Creek Avenue to Mill Creek (the former Norfolk-Southern RR property) and to connect downtown Comstock Park to the point where the paved White Pine Trail turns east at the entrance to Fifth Third Ball Park to the banks of the Grand River. The improvements, being designed right now by Prein & Newhof engineers, will be constructed before November of 2008 at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. These improvements have been included in the DDA's Development Plan since 1993 and are also included in the amended Plan, approved by the Plainfield Township Board in February. Remember – these things do not "just happen;" people are working to make them happen.

"What is the Comstock Park DDA?"

Message from the Supervisor

My article in this publication of the *Profile* is going to touch on two very important issues: *Citizen volunteerism* and the *Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority*.



When Plainfield Charter Township faces contentious issues, such as rezoning parcels, issues over special use permits, perceived infringements on peoples' rights, or any other perceived big government issues, it receives questions

from citizens about "how do we become involved" with the Township's various commissions or committees. We at the Township are glad to answer the questions, but we have experienced very little citizen follow-up. We ask that a letter be sent to the Supervisor or the Clerk stating which committee or commission you are interested in and why, along with a brief description of your experience. Letters of interest are held on file and when an opening occurs, they are reviewed for potential appointees. The Supervisor appoints the members of the Planning Commission subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. Other committee and commission members are recommended to the Board for their approval. Our

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inventory of letters is very low right now. If you have any questions or want more information about this subject, please contact me or Clerk Susan Morrow, at 364-8466.

The Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority (PACIA) is a program where Plainfield Charter Township is partnering with Grand Rapids Township, designating a corridor on Plainfield Avenue from Lamberton Lake Drive in Grand Rapid Township, northeast to Airway Street in Plainfield Township. For everyone's information, 4 Mile Road is the dividing line between the two townships. All of the real estate and the business personal property contained in the corridor boundaries is part of the PACIA.

The thrust of the PACIA is to improve and enhance the conditions of the corridor to make it more appealing, more attractive and possibly more convenient for travel. In simple terms, it could be said that the PACIA is a beautification committee aimed at improving a commercial area through the cooperation of property owners and captured tax dollars. I would encourage every corridor property owner/tenant to take pride in the area and to contact any PACIA member to see how they could help.

For more information, contact me, or Plainfield Township Manager Robert Homan, at 364-6537, or Grand Rapids Township Supervisor Mike DeVries at 361-7391.

George Meek, Supervisor

Upcoming Election Dates

May 06, 2008 - Election Day

August 05, 2008 - Primary Election Day

November 04, 2008 - General Election Day



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 price you should be able to sell it for)**, 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. In a declining market, assessors are allowed to use a one-year sales study. We have elected to use the one-year study and will use sales from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 to determine our assessed values for 2008.
- 2008 Residential Assessments (**Assessed Value**) were decreased an average of 2%, and the **Taxable Value** for 2008 was increased by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 2.3%. The CPI 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, CMAEIII, Assessor

Free Tree Program – Not in 2008

The Township's Free Tree program will not take place in 2008 due to budget constraints. The Township Board hopes you continue to enjoy the trees and bushes, distributed for the past 18 years. Thank you to all the residents who assisted in the reforestation of the township.

Susan L. Morrow, MMC



Election Inspectors Needed

Applications to serve as an election inspector for any election are available at www.plainfieldchartertp.org or by calling the Plainfield Charter Township office, 364-8466 between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Election Inspectors are appointed by the Election Commission for each election. In an effort to reduce the cost of elections for schools, three inspectors per precinct are usually appointed

for the election conducted in May each year. For the Primary Election and the General Election in 2008 we will need as many as seven inspectors per precinct. Please consider applying to serve the township in this capacity. You must be a registered voter to serve as an inspector and you must indicate your political party preference on your application.

Here are the pay rates for these positions:

<u>TRAINING SESSION</u>	<u>WHO MUST ATTEND</u>	<u>PAY RATE</u>
Election School	All inspectors and chairpeople	\$ 9.00/hr
Chairperson Election School	Chairpeople	\$10.00/hr
Public Test	All Chairpeople who are available	\$10.00/hr
Precinct Set-up	All Chairpeople who are available	\$10.00/hr
Election Day	Chairperson	\$160.00/day
Election Inspectors		\$140.00/day
Backups		\$ 20.00/day
Absent Counting Board		\$ 12.00/hr

Inspectors are required by law to attend Election School for training in operating the polling locations. Election School is usually two hours long and is conducted just prior to each election. Chairpeople receive many additional

hours of instruction prior to each election. The Clerk and her staff have all received training from the state and are certified to conduct elections and to teach election schools.

Susan L. Morrow, MMC

Township Board Election Information

It's that time again! All township officials in Michigan are elected in the same election cycle as the President of the United States. Candidates must file a nominating petition, abide by campaign finance laws, and be a registered voter in the community in which they run for office.

Candidates who run on a partisan ballot appear on the Primary Election ballot in August as they oppose members of their own party for the opportunity to run in the General Election when parties oppose one another. The deadline for partisan candidates to file a completed petition for local office is May 13, 2008.

appear on the Primary Election ballot; they only appear on the General Election ballot in November. The deadline for non-partisan candidates to file a completed petition is July 17, 2008.

All local candidates must file a petition, signed by registered voters in the township. Candidates for local office file without a fee.

The local offices being elected in the General Election on November 04, 2008 are Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, and four Township Trustees. All terms are four years. Candidate packets are now available in the Clerk's office during regular business hours.

Candidates who run as an independent do not

Hyser Rivers Museum 2008 Schedule of Events

The Hyser Rivers Museum will be open on the first Sunday of the months of May through December, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., unless indicated. Mark your calendar for



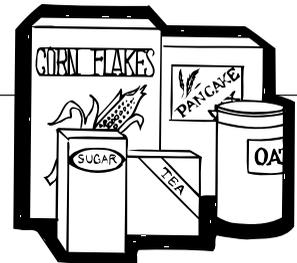
all of the upcoming events to be held at the museum which is located at 6440 West River Drive in Belmont.

- **May 4 – Open House.** Make and take a May Day Basket
- **June 1 – Open House.** Come visit the house and see some Township history on display
- **July 13 –** Come share your family history with others

- **August 3 – Open House.** Enjoy a bit of Township history.
- **September 13 & 14 –** Open house in conjunction with the Grand Rogue Camp Grounds Living History Encampment
- **September 13, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.** Demonstrations
- **September 14, noon – 5:00 pm.** The Apple Valley Dulcimer Group
- **October 5 –** Halloween crafts for families
- **November 2 –** Thanksgiving craft for families
- **December 7 –** An Old Fashion Christmas Craft Day for families

Group tours can be arranged by calling the Plainfield Township offices at (616) 364-8466. You will be put in touch with a member of the Historical Committee.

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Commodity Distribution from River Grove

There is a new location for local commodities distribution.

Commodities will now be distributed from River Grove Retirement Community, located at 5761 Jupiter Avenue NE, near the northwest corner of West River Drive and Jupiter Avenue.

COMMODITIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME PERSONS ON THESE DATES:

MARCH 6, 2008 • JUNE 5, 2008

To qualify, you must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road. Distribution hours are 9 AM to 1 PM.

New families wishing to qualify may call Jim or Peg Granzotto at (616) 784-5249; or come to the distribution site on the above dates. If you are not pre-qualified, you must bring your Social Security card for each member of your family along with income statements.

Jim Granzotto

NEW Information about Passport Books and Passport Cards

Effective - February 01, 2008

Plainfield Charter Township, located at 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont, has been a designated "Passport Application Acceptance Facility" since September 2001.

HOURS OF OPERATION: 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday, except Election Days and as otherwise posted.

Persons interested in applying for a U.S. Passport at Plainfield Township must appear in person. Children age 15 and under need to be present with both parents. Children 16-17 need to be present with one parent. All applicants must bring the following items:

- **APPLICATION FORM:** forms can be downloaded from the Internet at www.travel.state.gov or completed in the Township Office.
- **EVIDENCE OF CITIZENSHIP:** a certified birth certificate from the state or county of birth.
- **EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY:** state issued driver's license or ID card, US Military ID card
- **TWO PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS:** taken within the past 6 months that meet the US Department of State specifications.

QUESTIONS? Contact Plainfield Township Office Clerk's office at 364-8466. The Clerk's office is happy to go to your location to process applications for groups such as missionary or school trips. We also participate in the yearly Breton Village Travel Fair.

PASSPORT BOOK FEES: (Valid for travel by air, sea, and/or land) – two checks or money orders as follows:

- Age 16 and over - \$75.00 Passport Book fee (payable to: US Department of State) and \$25.00 Execution fee (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)
- Age 15 and under - \$60.00 Passport Book fee (payable to: US Department of State) and \$25.00 Execution fee (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)
- Passport Pictures - \$10.00 (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)

PASSPORT CARD FEES: (NOT valid for air travel – Valid for land and sea crossings between the US, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean only) – two checks or money orders as follows:

- Age 16 and over - \$20.00 Passport Card fee (payable to: US Department of State) and \$25.00 Execution fee (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)
- Age 15 and under - \$10.00 Passport Card fee (payable to: US Department of State) and \$25.00 Execution fee (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)
- Passport Pictures - \$10.00 (payable to: Plainfield Charter Township)



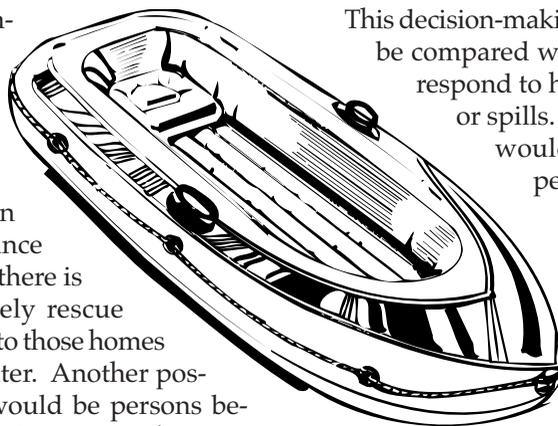
No Boat for the PFD?

In a recent newspaper story, there was mention of the absence of watercraft from the substantial inventory of equipment used by the Plainfield Township Fire Department (PFD). This was news, not because a piece of equipment was stolen or missing; it was the revelation that the PFD has never possessed any watercraft for rescue purposes. During the course of reviewing annual budget requests from the Fire Department over the past several years, the Township Board has rejected spending \$25,000 - \$30,000 for a boat that would be powered, equipped and manned by trained personnel to effect rescues where imminent drowning or other life-threatening circumstances require access over water.

Flooding conditions that have plagued riverfront dwellings in Plainfield Township since people began residing there is probably the most likely rescue scenario, should access to those homes be blocked by deep water. Another possible rescue scenario would be persons being swept downstream due to a mishap – not typical or likely, but certainly possible. Finally, there are several large bodies of water in Plainfield Township that people use to swim, boat, fish, or skate upon. Having our very own watercraft to rescue, assist, or search would probably be handy.

Plainfield Township does not have the capability to effect watercraft-driven rescues – never has, except maybe for commandeering or “borrowing” a boat. Over the past thirty years, one could probably count these occasions on one (or maybe two) hand(s). So, why doesn’t the PFD have a boat? Purchasing a boat that can do all of the things and handle all of the conditions mentioned would probably cost about

\$30,000. Coming up with \$30,000 during the past seven years of declining revenues from the State of Michigan and decreasing growth in property tax revenue has been a problem. Major maintenance and replacement purchases have been deferred. Needed-but-not-critical improvements or enhancements have been eliminated from the budget. The Township Board has legitimately determined that acquiring watercraft and committing to the necessary equipment, training, and resource allocation that this would require does not rank high enough in the prioritization of expenditures and “new” services.



This decision-making process could reasonably be compared with items like gearing up to respond to hazardous chemical releases or spills. We don’t do that because it would require a substantial expenditure of resources, equipment, and specialized training. Confined space rescues, like caved-in trench rescues, require significant training and equipment. Plainfield Township, like most other communities in these difficult times, cannot afford to be all things to all people. We have to pick and choose wisely when confronted with issues like this.

So, do we ignore the people on the river and let them simply fend for themselves? No, I think we are sensitive to their needs, even though they know full well that their flood-prone homesteads present access difficulties every year. We will try to find reasonable and affordable ways to respond to emergencies, even though it may not involve a full-fledged river rescue flotilla. Perhaps an adequately sized, flat-bottomed bass boat may do the job. True emergencies can happen anywhere, but

continued on next page

No Boat *continued from previous page*

those are not in the same class as providing a ferry service to get from the front stairs to dry land when the need or the desire occurs. People on the river know what can happen, and

they pretty much are prepared to tough it out. Accidents, heart attacks, and other desperate situations will require outside assistance, and we will find ways to respond as our capabilities will allow.

Robert C. Homan, Township Manager

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Accessing your tax information 24/7 for income tax preparation...

Property information can be viewed via the Internet by accessing the Township's web site, www.plainfieldchartertp.org. Click the "Property Information" button on the home page. You will see a screen that lists "Plainfield Township" and all you have to do is click the Login button. From there you can retrieve information by various search criteria. Assessing and tax information is available. All of this is public information and the pages are printable which makes it very convenient for Federal/State tax preparation. The data is updated daily!! If you have any questions, feel free to call us and we can walk you through the process.

Special Assessments on your winter bill...

We have had many telephone calls regarding the ability to deduct Special Assessments on your IRS 1040. The Township has never played the role of a tax service or given any tax advice. These Special Assessments may be for delinquent water or sewer bills, or road, water and sewer assessments or streetlights. Before you include this assessment as a deduction, please get the opinion of a professional tax service.

Partial payments...

A number of people who are in difficult financial times were comforted to find they could make partial payments on their taxes.

Once you receive your tax bill, whether it is summer or winter, we will accept any amount you wish to pay on your tax balance. If your taxes are not paid in full by the due date, penalties or interest is calculated only on the balance due.

Cash versus check...

It is safer for you and the Township if you can make your tax or utility payments by check. The Township will accept cash but we prefer checks. Currently we do NOT accept credit cards.

Tax information...

For the 2007 summer and winter tax collection we sent out approximately 28,000 tax bills. The total receivable was nearly \$41 million dollars of which \$3.7 million (9%) was for the Township. Property taxes are the number one source of Township revenue.

Online payment of taxes...

I hope to have software in place for the 2008 tax season that will allow online payments of taxes. The process will be very similar to online payments of other bills, like, credit cards, bank loans, and cable TV. At this time I don't foresee any fees. Currently, over 500 payments are automatically paid by bank debit.

Jim Stover, Treasurer



Kent District Library NEWS

Let it Snow Reading Club for Adults. You have until March 31 to play KDL Bingo! Win by reading books in various categories. One bingo on your card gets your name in bi-weekly drawings for \$20 gift certificates. Two bingos earns you a beautiful travel mug. Register at any KDL Branch Library to participate.

2008 One Book, One County. Have you heard about the book everyone is reading together, *A Free Life* by Ha Jin? If you would like to join a lively discussion of this thought-provoking title about the immigrant experience, you are welcome to join us at the Plainfield Library on Thursday, March 13th at 1pm. The author himself will appear at the Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, April 1 at 7pm. Pick up a copy of the book at your nearest KDL branch.

Watch for these upcoming programs, and please join us!

For Young Children and Families...

Spring Babytime, Laptime and Storytime programs run March 4-April 28 (Registration is required).

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

Plainfield – Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

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

Plainfield – Thursdays, 9:45 am and 10:45 am
Comstock Park – Mondays at 10:30 am

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

Comstock Park – Mondays, 10:30am

Plainfield – Thursdays, 9:45 am and 10:45 am

Family Storytime – Stories and crafts for all ages.

Plainfield – Wednesdays, 10:00 am

Pajama Storytime – Stories and nighttime fun for the whole family.

Plainfield – Wednesdays, 7pm

Other programs for children include ...

Family Sunday Series at Plainfield – 2 pm every Sunday in March (except Easter Day)

March 2 – Let's Go Fly a Kite! Learn about kites – then build your own

March 9 – Harpbeat – sing, move, and laugh with the music

March 16 – The Land of Imagination with LaRon Williams – this fabulously entertaining storyteller works his magic

March 30 – Bats of the World – learn about bats and see them live

For Teens...

Thursdays at Plainfield, 4-5:30 pm:

March 6 – DDR – Dance Dance Revolution!

March 13 – Marble Magnets – create a set of unique magnets

March 20 – Guitar Hero

March 27 – Board Game Bonanza

April 3 – DDR

April 10 – Rubberstamp some creative cards to give to friends and family

April 17 – Guitar Hero

PLAINFIELD BRANCH HOURS

2650 5-Mile Road NE • Phone: 647-3930

Mon. through Thurs. 9:30 am to 8:00 pm

Friday, Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

(during the school year only)

COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH HOURS

3943 West River Drive • Phone: 647-3860

Monday 9:30 am to 8:00 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Friday, Saturday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Poetry Slam — Join acclaimed slam poet Karrie Waarala for a workshop on writing and performing a poem for a slam. □ Then stick around for an hour of performance poetry. □ Though this slam is noncompetitive, you'll get a sneak peek at how a competitive slam works.

Plainfield – Thursday, May 15, 6-8 pm

For Adults...

Monthly Book Discussions – You are warmly welcomed to join our “no-pressure” book discussion groups, where you can relax and talk about books with other avid readers.

Plainfield – 2nd Thursday of the month, 1 pm

Comstock Park – 4th Thursday of the month, 7 pm

Talk Time! Un Tiempo de Hablar – A Conversation Group for New Speakers of English – Practice speaking English with other beginners in a comfortable, small group setting. Get to know people from other countries and have fun!

Comstock Park – Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm

Creative Beading with Liz Langenberg.

Plainfield – Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 pm

Comstock Park – Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 pm

Grand Rapids Art Museum Goes Green – GRAM is the first LEED certified museum in the world.

Plainfield – Friday, April 4, 10:30 am

Saving One Cat at a Time – Presented by Crash's Landing.

Plainfield – Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30 pm

Both the Plainfield and Comstock Park branches offer one-on-one, half-hour “**Computer Confidence**” tutorials in the library for beginners. Choose from four topics: Introduction to Computers; Introduction to the Internet; Lakenet (the online library catalog) and Beginning Microsoft Word. Please be aware that even though the computers we have at the library are quite similar to a home computer, they are not exactly the same. Please be sure to bring your library card with you. Call the library for more information.

One of the many online databases KDL offers is *Chilton's Online*. For those familiar with do-it-yourself auto repair, you will recognize the name, but perhaps not be aware that this information is available at home to all KDL library card holders with internet access. Using it is simple: just select the make, model and year of the vehicle, and you will receive instructions, illustrations, service bulletins, and much more. To access, go to www.kdl.org, choose “Research Databases,” then look for “Auto Repair.” Please feel free to call the library if you have any questions about these or any other library services.

EXPANSION OF PLAYGROUND

Versluis Park will be closed for construction starting on Monday, April 21, 2008 until it re-opens for the summer on May 25, 2008.

The play set in the picnic area is being expanded by 25% and we are enhancing its accessibility. Plainfield Township received a grant from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Foundation and Access to Recreation Initiative to assist with the cost of replacing the wood chips. The wood chips under the play set will be removed in April and the ground prepared for a permanent padded rubber surface to be installed prior to opening in May.

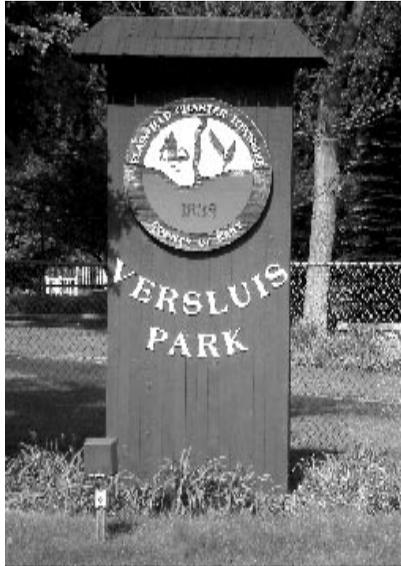
FISHING INSTRUCTION

Plainfield Township has again partnered with the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America for fishing instruction at Versluis Park. The instruction starts the week of June 16, 2008, and runs for five weeks. Plainfield Township will provide the bait, and we have some poles for those that do not have fishing poles. The class is one night each week for 1 hour. Last year the kids caught walleye, blue gill, and bass.

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

resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization."

Plainfield Township is privileged to have such a highly regarded organization such as the Izaak Walton League of America to assist our youth in the understanding and experience of fishing.



2008 Versluis Park News

SUMMER SWIMMING

Versluis Park will be opening on Sunday, May 25, 2008, from 11:00 am – 8:00 pm (swimming beach ONLY). All other areas of Versluis Park are open from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm. Plainfield Charter Township residents may purchase a Season Pass Sticker for \$15.00. A Non-Resident Season Pass Sticker is being offered for \$75.00. The entrance fee per vehicle is now \$8.00. You may purchase Season Pass Stickers at the Park.

The Plainfield Charter Township Parks & Recreation Department wishes you a safe and wonderful Summer Season!

LIFE JACKETS

Plainfield Charter Township is recommending that **ALL** children under the age of 8 years old use a "Coast Guard Approved" life jacket while in the water at Versluis Park. Please check the label on the inside of your life jacket to make sure it is "Coast Guard Approved." We will **NOT** allow life jackets or flotation devices that are not "Coast Guard Approved."

BATHING BEACH RULES

1. NO swimming except when lifeguard is on duty.
2. Swimming hours permitted 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
3. Swimmers must stay within buoy lines.
4. NO inner tubes, flotation devices, swim fins, masks, large balls, arm floats, or battery powered toys or models are allowed into swimming area.
5. NO scuba diving or scuba diving equipment allowed.
6. NO boats of any kind allowed into swimming area, except for lifeboat.
7. NO ball playing or roughhousing is permitted.
8. NO food, glass containers, or picnicking on beach.
9. NO smoking on the beach.
10. Children must be 10 years of age or older to be in the water at the beach area. Children younger than this will be allowed in the water if accompanied by a responsible adult, who will stay with the child at all times.
11. Rubber pants must be worn over diapers.
12. Beach will close when thunder and lightning occur or when any other condition occurs that warrants closing of the swimming and beach area, such as a severe thunderstorm watch or tornado watch, severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning.
13. All swimmers must clear the water immediately when the signal to do so is given, and no one may enter the water until an all clear signal is given.
14. Follow all directions by lifeguards. Lifeguards are authorized by Township Ordinance to exclude and expel from the beach or park area any persons who violate these regulations (See lifeguard if you have any questions).
15. Appropriate clothing is required on the beach and swimming area. (Clothing must be modest, consistent with a family park environment).

16. ALL children under the age of 8 years old must use a Coast Guard Approved life jacket while in the water at Versluis.

Versluis Park was designed to accommodate ALL levels of ability. All activity areas are designed to enhance the park experience for the community of the disabled. As the disabled community uses the facilities at the park, please check with the staff to take advantage of any accommodations we can make to improve your experience. Those guests that choose to swim need to speak with the Lifeguards to ensure a safe experience.

Reminder that Versluis Park is drug and alcohol free, no beer, wine, or liquor is tolerated. Violators will be removed and prosecuted.

Friends of the Plainfield Library

The Friends of the Plainfield Library (a 501 [c][3] organization) is a very active association of around one hundred library members who help raise funds for the library through used books sales and other fund-raising events. Please help support this group through your donations of gently used books as well as your active participation in the organization and activities. Friday March 7: 12:00 noon. Travelogue program: **“Armchair Travel to Belize, the Mayan ruins and Guatemala”** presented by local naturalist and popular personality Mary Jane Dockeray. A \$6.00 charge includes a salad and sandwich luncheon; \$1.00 for the program only. Register for luncheon in advance at the library. Sponsored by Friends of the Plainfield Library.

Saturday April 19: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. **“Home-Based Sales”** sponsored by Friends of the Plainfield Library. ☐ Great gift ideas for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and graduation. ☐

Plainfield Charter Township

TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday
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

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