

# THE PROFILE

\*PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 1

PHONE 364-8466

NOVEMBER 2004

In the most recent PROFILE, I summarized and characterized what our Planning Department accomplishes on behalf of our Township. Development needs to be planned and executed properly from a land use and infrastructure perspective. The Planning Department's primary function is to shepherd new development through Plainfield Township's review, approval, and monitoring process. In an urbanized community like ours, still growing rapidly, this function is critical to the well being of current and future residents and visitors to the Township. Mistakes made in this process will haunt the community for decades. Conversely, things that are done right will benefit us now and in the future.

The Building Inspections Department, usually called "the Building Department," is managed and operated by dedicated people who have many years of training and experience. Building inspectors are certified by the State of Michigan. They follow a single building code as required by the state, and they must constantly keep current with changes to the Code that are being introduced regularly. The task of this department can be further broken down

into structural, mechanical, and electrical areas that are subdivisions of the state code. There is also the "plumbing" section of the Code that Plainfield Township does not administer but coordinates with the state inspector who visits our offices frequently.

Larry Feist, a veteran of 35 years with Plainfield

Township,

directs the department. He is the Building Official. Two certified full time inspectors, Dave Kloote and Randy Kooienga, assist Larry in the office and in the field. Over the past several years, Plainfield Township has issued well over 500 building permits annually. Having a local building department assures local quality control and customer service, as well as a degree of familiarity with Township rules and regulations, utilities, and policies that cannot be provided at a comparable level if the inspections were carried out by the State – as is the case in most smaller townships. Some

townships and cities use contracted services to provide this function, and this may cost the

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## Plainfield Township's Building Inspections Department

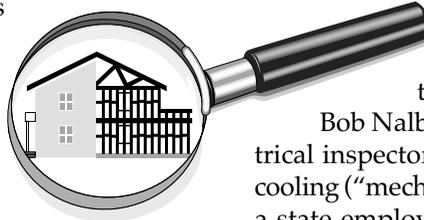


# Building Inspections Department

*continued from page 1*

homeowners and the municipality less money than its own staff; however, the degree of local knowledge, customer service and assistance does not equal what our Building Department has to offer. We feel that the service we provide – not only to the contractors and builders, but also to private citizens, is more desirable and more beneficial for the community.

Why do we need building inspections? We need it because the level of knowledge and skills out there in the building community is not uniform, and we cannot be assured that construction will be done correctly. Without government review and inspection of the construction of homes and businesses, we would depend on the builders and homeowners to do it right and provide a safe and well-built product. No doubt, most – by far and away most – builders and contractors do quality work and charge fair prices for their product. But, without code-mandated inspection, human nature would tend to produce cheap, shoddy, or defective workmanship. Because they know we will be out there making sure that it is designed to code and built to code, the public has a high level of assurance that they are getting the real McCoy. The Home Builders Association of Greater Grand Rapids provides further assurance that their members are up on the latest techniques and regulations. They provide a healthy degree of self-policing and quality assurance. This is not a commercial for that organization; it is simply recognizing that this professional association is working with us and their members to maintain an excellent reputation. ... But we still need building inspection.



Do you have questions about what you need a permit for? Do you want a review and assistance before you dive in to your little project?

We are here for that purpose. We don't just collect your building permit fees and send you on your way; we give you value for your investment and help assure that your major investment is secure. Sometimes our guys may seem picky, but it is their job to be picky. Having had a new home built myself in recent years; I am simply delighted about how picky the building inspector was when my home had to meet the test of conforming to the state building code.

Before closing, I must also recognize Doris Mowery, the able and friendly person who takes the phone calls, keeps the records, and organizes the department in an exemplary manner to serve our customers well. We have four full time people and two part time people that perform these important tasks. The part time people are Bob Nalbach, retired Grand Rapids electrical inspector, and Ron Walker, heating and cooling ("mechanical") inspector. James Kelsey, a state employee, does the plumbing inspections.

The work that these people do is very important. To a very real extent, your life may depend on how well they do their work. Think about it.

*Robert Homan, Township Manager*

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**Happy Birthday,  
PROFILE!**

With this issue, The PROFILE turns 30.  
We salute its editors over the years:  
Mary Jean Malkewitz • Ted Wilson  
Dottie Siebers • Jackie Wiltzer  
Priscilla Walden

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# WHITE PINE TRAIL UPDATE

FALL 2004

By Dick Granse, Friends of the White Pine Trail

This season has been by far the busiest and most enjoyable on the trail. The following is a brief update:

Root damage repair between Belmont and Rockford is scheduled to be completed this fall, before the weather makes asphalt repair impossible.

Maintenance on the trail went very well this season, with the Friends of the White Pine Trail providing the majority of maintenance for the entire 93 mile trail. The Friends were helped greatly, as in the past, by the excellent work of The City of Rockford and Plainfield Township. With trail management uncertain for 2005, The Friends are already planning for the same role in 2005 and volunteer help is needed.

Fund raising for the local match to pave the next section of the trail to Sand Lake is being coordinated by the Friends. *Individual and business/corporate donations toward the paving would be very helpful and may be directed towards the Friends.*

Many organized events are now using the trail, particularly in the Comstock Park to Rockford section, mainly on weekends. While this is a delightful and desirable situation, conflicts with the trail-using public have already started

to arise. Though these have been minimal so far, we expect that the use of the trail for events next season will exceed the capacity of the trail and infringe on the rights of the everyday recreational trail user, which after all, is the primary purpose of the trail. To address this issue, the Friends will be coordinating meetings of the major stakeholders during the off season including the DNR, Kent County, other local governments, law enforcement, and interested event sponsors. If you would like information about this initiative please call the Friends information line in November. **Any organized event using the trail for any part of the event must be permitted by the DNR and the contact number is Mitchell State Park (231) 775-7911.** We do not expect this necessary requirement to change.

The Friends will be hosting their Fourth annual New Years Day Walk at 10am on New Years Day. It will start and end at the Rockford Rotary Pavilion, and consists of a 3 to 4 mile walk. It will proceed regardless of temperature or conditions unless there are extremely unsafe conditions (blizzard), and we expect a path will be plowed on the trail if there is snow build up. The public is welcome and there is no charge – just come and get the New Year off on the right or left foot.

## FRIENDS OF THE WHITE PINE TRAIL INFORMATION

**Website:** [www.whitepinetrail.org](http://www.whitepinetrail.org)

**Address:** Box 159, Belmont 49306

Become a member for \$5 per year and receive e-mail updates & newsletter

**Meeting Schedule: Second Wednesday at 7 pm.**

Oct. 13: Algoma Township Hall

Nov.10: Nelson Township Hall (Sand Lake)

Dec. 8: Plainfield Township Hall

Jan. 12: Call 866-8464 for location

# KDL Kent District Library

## NEWS

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The KDL Fall Color Tour will take place throughout the month of October, presented by KDL's Alliance of Friends. Visit four KDL branches and you can enter to win one of eighteen delightful book baskets. The annual Schuler Book Days fundraiser will be November 1st – 7th this year. Mention the library and 20% of the sale will be donated to the KDL Alliance of Friends.

Finally, the Alliance will be sponsoring the annual "Let It Snow Reading Club for Adults Kick-Off Celebration" at the Frederick Meijer Gardens on Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. Joseph Finder, author of best-selling thrillers *Paranoia*, *Extraordinary Powers*, and *High Crimes* will be our speaker this year at this free event.

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](http://www.kdl.org)).

### For Young Children and Families (to register please call your local branch)

Fall Laptimes programs are now in session. Stories, music and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their parents.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 am
- Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Spring Storytime programs also in full swing. Stories and crafts for ages 3-6.

- Plainfield Branch – Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45am
- Comstock Park Branch – Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Other programs for children include Family Storytimes, Pajama Storytimes, "Lewis And Clark, Explorers," "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Big Kids Book Time," "Blues Clues at the Library" and "Magic Tree House." In honor of the Grand Rapids world premier of Chris VanAllsburg's movie, we'll also present a special Polar Express storytime.

### Just for Teens

At the Plainfield branch the Halloween Teen Café will take place on Tuesday evening, October 26th. Young people age 12 and over will have a great time showing off their costumes as they sing karaoke, play an instrument, read poetry, or just chat with their friends – enjoying hot chocolate and snacks. The Teen Advisory Board will meet for pizza and soda on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m.

### Especially For Adults

Both library branches welcome you to join our monthly "no-pressure" book discussion groups, where you can relax and talk about a book with other avid readers. Plainfield's meets on Tuesday afternoons, and Comstock Park's meets on Thursday nights. Call your branch for a list of upcoming titles and dates—and give it a try!

<b>COMSTOCK PARK BRANCH LIBRARY</b> <b>3943 West River Drive • Phone: 647-3860</b> <b>HOURS</b>	
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	12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Other upcoming adult programs include “Historic Ship Preservation” and “Holiday Greeting Cards and Gift Tags.”

At the Plainfield Library, take advantage of our “Brown Bag Medication Check-up” on Wednesday, October 6th at 10:00 a.m. Meet with Spartan Stores’ pharmacists to make sure your herbal and nutritional supplements are really maintaining your health. Bring in your current prescriptions and over-the counter medications, and the pharmacist will meet with you individually for an informational evaluation. Refreshments are provided, and you can register to win a \$25 gift coupon from Spartan Stores. Registration is required, and participation is limited.

Do your holiday gift shopping at the Friends of the Plainfield Library’s “Before the Snow Flies” Annual Craft Show on Saturday, October 23rd, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Auction items will be on display and open for bidding to all library patrons one week before the show. The admission fee is \$ .50, and the show will include a bake sale, door prizes every 15 minutes, and auction winners, in addition to over 30 vendors of arts and crafts. The Friends will also present master storyteller Larry Plamondon, a member of the Grand River

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

Mon. through Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bands of Ottawa and Turtle Clan, with “Stories From the People of this Place” on Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. And don’t miss “Holidays Around the World”, an interactive family celebration with a renowned musical group Harpbeat! on Saturday, November 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Want to join an interesting group that values their members? Join the Friends of the Plainfield Library. They are a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization that loves its library. For a nominal yearly fee, you get a monthly newsletter that lets you know the upcoming events before they are open to the public. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Call the library for a specific meeting time.

## Commodity Distribution



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

- December 2, 2004
- June 2, 2005
- March 3, 2005
- September 1, 2005

To qualify you must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road. Distribution is at 6156 Belmont Avenue (Rogelio’s Pizza). between the hours of 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. Bring your social security card and an income statement.

## Checks, Taxes and Tags

### Check 21...

"Check 21" was created by the federal government to improve the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. banking system. Today when you write a check for payment, the check is physically transported between banks. This new legislation will allow the bank to convert the check to an electronic image and use this image as a substitute check in lieu of the original check. This process, called check truncation, allows the information to travel between banks electronically.



What brought about this legislation? 9/11. With all of the planes grounded on the airport runways, checks could not clear the bank they were drawn on. This could have caused a financial catastrophe.

Some retail merchants are already using a form of check truncation today. When you pay for your purchases with a check, the clerk/teller scans your check through a scanner and gives your check back to you. I have been told there are stampings on the face of the check that indicates the merchant received your check and an image has been created. On a timely basis, these images are transmitted to the bank as a deposit.

Nightly, the bank transmits the images through the Federal Reserve System and it is possible the image of your check will hit your account that night. Over the years we have expected a 2-3 day float on our checks. That will be gone! To avoid bank charges, make certain the funds are in your account.

### Freely access your assessing and tax information...

You can access your "property information" via the Internet. First access the Township's web site, [www.plainfieldchartertp.org](http://www.plainfieldchartertp.org), and click the "Property Information" button on the banner. You will get 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. All of this is public information. All of the pages are printable which makes it very convenient for having a copy available for Federal/State tax reporting. The data is updated daily!! Use this process to see if your tax payment has been processed.

### 2004 winter tax bill...

All activity related to the 2004 tax processing was done using new software and the event was successful. It took staff very little time to make the adjustment. We appreciate your patience during this learning curve. The printing of the tax bills was out-sourced and went well. We minimized costs and at the same time improved our effectiveness. Several taxpayers offered suggestions for readability and those changes will be reflected on the 2004 winter bill.

### Dog tags...

The Township will start selling the 2005 dog tags starting December 1. The last day to purchase the tags at the Township will be March 1, 2005.



*Jim Stover, Treasurer*

### **ELECTION EQUIPMENT:**

Plainfield Charter Township uses direct recording election equipment (Touch Screen). As you enter the precinct, election inspectors will instruct you on the use of the equipment. If you need additional assistance, please ask an election inspector.

### **ABSENT VOTER PROCEDURES:**

If you are qualified to vote absentee, please consider doing so. The qualifications are:

- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another person.
- I am 60 years of age or older.

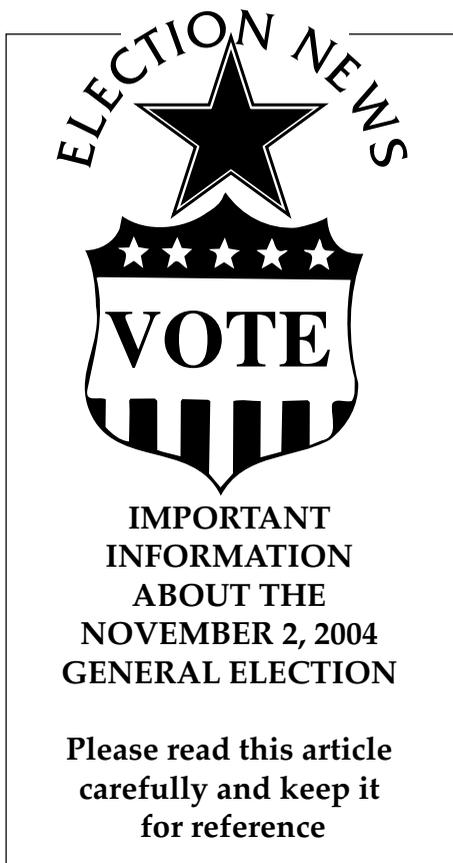
Absent voter ballots are available in the Clerk's office during regular business hours. Voters may complete the application, receive a ballot and vote immediately, if they desire. The township offices are located at 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont. The office hours are 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **SATURDAY HOURS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS:**

The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, October 23 and Saturday, October 30, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to issue absentee ballots only. No other departments will be open.

### **POLLING HOURS:**

The polls are open from 7:00am until 8:00pm. Many people are going to or coming from work at the same time. During these times, the polls are very busy and there could be lines. Please vote absentee if you qualify or plan to go to the polls during the middle of the day, if it is possible, to avoid long lines.



### **VOTER REGISTRATIONS:**

If you have any questions about voting, please visit the Secretary of State web site at [www.sospublius.org](http://www.sospublius.org) and follow the instructions to check your voter registration, see a sample ballot, get instructions on touch screen voting equipment, important election dates or maps showing precinct locations.

### **SAMPLE BALLOTS:**

See the sample ballots on the next two pages. They are also available at the front desk of the township office. Stop by or call and we will be glad to mail or fax one to you.

We in the Plainfield Charter Township Clerk's office are eager to assist voters during any election. Please call us

at 364-8466 or email us at [morrows@plainfieldchartertp.org](mailto:morrows@plainfieldchartertp.org) to ask questions or receive assistance.

Please participate in every election. It is a very special privilege and responsibility.

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

PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 2, 2004

STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET VOTE FOR ONLY ONE (1) PARTY	
101	REPUBLICAN PARTY
102	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
103	GREEN PARTY
104	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY
105	LIBERTARIAN PARTY
106	NATURAL LAW PARTY

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)	
107	REPUBLICAN GEORGE W. BUSH DICK CHENEY
108	DEMOCRATIC JOHN F. KERRY JOHN EDWARDS
109	GREEN PARTY DAVID COBB PATRICIA LAMARCHE
110	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY MICHAEL ANTHONY PEROUTKA CHUCK BALDWIN
111	LIBERTARIAN MICHAEL BADNARIK RICHARD CAMPAGNA
112	NATURAL LAW WALTER BROWN MARY ALICE HERBERT
113	NO PARTY AFFILIATION RALPH NADER PETER MIGUEL CAMEJO

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 3RD DISTRICT 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)	
114	REPUBLICAN VERNON J. EHLERS
115	DEMOCRATIC PETER H. HICKEY
116	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY MARCEL J. SALES
117	LIBERTARIAN WARREN ADAMS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 73RD DISTRICT 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)	
118	REPUBLICAN TOM PEARCE
119	DEMOCRATIC FREDERICK CLOWNEY
120	LIBERTARIAN RON HEEREN

MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 8 YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)	
121	REPUBLICAN NANCY DANHOF
122	REPUBLICAN ROBERT M. SMART
123	DEMOCRATIC MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE
124	DEMOCRATIC HERBERT S. MOYER
125	GREEN PARTY PETER PONZETTI
126	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY GAIL M. GRAESER
127	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY STEPHANIE POORTENGA
128	LIBERTARIAN SCOTTY BOMAN
129	LIBERTARIAN ERNIE WHITESIDE
130	NATURAL LAW COLETTE MCLOGAN

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN 8 YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)	
131	REPUBLICAN PATRICK ANDERSON
132	REPUBLICAN CARL MEYERS
133	DEMOCRATIC OLIVIA P. MAYNARD
134	DEMOCRATIC S. MARTIN TAYLOR
135	GREEN PARTY NATHANIEL DAMREN
136	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY KAREN ADAMS
137	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY JOE SANGER
138	LIBERTARIAN MICHAEL R. CORLISS
139	LIBERTARIAN JAMES LEWIS HUDLER
140	NATURAL LAW MARY F. DEBUSSCHERE

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 8 YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)	
141	REPUBLICAN MELANIE FOSTER
142	REPUBLICAN RANDALL PITTMAN
143	DEMOCRATIC JOEL I. FERGUSON
144	DEMOCRATIC PHIL THOMPSON
145	GREEN PARTY BENJAMIN ALAN BURGIS
146	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY CRYSTAL VAN SICKLE
147	LIBERTARIAN BILL HALL
148	LIBERTARIAN MICHAEL H. MILLER
149	NATURAL LAW KATHERINE DERN

PROPOSAL 04-1

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE VOTER  
APPROVAL OF ANY FORM OF GAMBLING AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND CERTAIN  
NEW STATE LOTTERY GAMES

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Require voter approval of any form of gambling authorized by law after January 1, 2004.
- Require voter approval of any new state lottery games utilizing "table games" or "player operated mechanical or electronic devices" introduced after January 1, 2004.
- Provide that when voter approval is required, both statewide voter approval and voter approval in the city or township where gambling will take place must be obtained.
- Specify that the voter approval requirement does not apply to Indian tribal gaming or gambling in up to three casinos located in the City of Detroit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

PROPOSAL 04-1	
189	YES
190	NO

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
8 YEAR TERMS  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)

150	REPUBLICAN <b>SUSAN LICATA HAROUTUNIAN</b>
151	REPUBLICAN <b>PAUL C. HILLEGONDS</b>
152	DEMOCRATIC <b>TINA ABBOTT</b>
153	DEMOCRATIC <b>ANNETTA MILLER</b>
154	GREEN PARTY <b>MARGARET GUTTSHALL</b>
155	U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY <b>PHILIP A. ADMAS</b>
156	LIBERTARIAN <b>JERRY JANKIEWICZ</b>
157	LIBERTARIAN <b>THOMAS W. JONES</b>
158	NATURAL LAW <b>KATHLEEN OAKFORD</b>

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
8 YEAR TERMS  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)

159	REPUBLICAN <b>BRIAN KEITH ZAHRA</b>
160	REPUBLICAN <b>MARILYN KELLY</b> Justice of the Supreme Court
161	REPUBLICAN <b>STEPHEN J. MARKMAN</b> Justice of the Supreme Court
162	DEMOCRATIC <b>LEONARD SCHWARTZ</b>
163	DEMOCRATIC <b>DEBORAH THOMAS</b>

COURT OF APPEALS (INCUMBENT)  
6 YEAR TERMS  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)

164	REPUBLICAN <b>JOEL P. HOEKSTRA</b> Judge of Court of Appeals
165	DEMOCRATIC <b>DAVID H. SAWYER</b> Judge of Court of Appeals

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT (INCUMBENT)  
17TH CIRCUIT 6 YEAR TERMS  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)

166	REPUBLICAN <b>GEORGE S. BUTH</b> Judge of Circuit Court
167	DEMOCRATIC <b>STEVEN M. PESTKA</b> Judge of Circuit Court

JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT (INCUMBENT)  
6 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

168	REPUBLICAN <b>NANARUTH H. CARPENTER</b> Judge of the Probate Court
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KENT COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

169	REPUBLICAN <b>WILLIAM A. FORSYTH</b>
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KENT COUNTY SHERIFF  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

170	REPUBLICAN <b>LA WRENCE A. STELMA</b>
171	DEMOCRATIC <b>RUSS STOTHERS</b>

KENT COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

172	REPUBLICAN <b>MARY HOLLINRAKE</b>
173	DEMOCRATIC <b>SUSAN M. LINDHOUT</b>
174	LIBERTARIAN <b>LYNNE M. BRADLEY-HORAN</b>

KENT COUNTY TREASURER  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

175	REPUBLICAN <b>KENNETH D. PARRISH</b>
176	DEMOCRATIC <b>STEPHEN LAUKA</b>

KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

177	REPUBLICAN <b>ROGER G. LANINGA</b>
178	DEMOCRATIC <b>JOSEPH R. MARCKINI</b>

KENT COUNTY COMMISSIONER-1ST DISTRICT  
2 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

179	REPUBLICAN <b>THEODORE J. VONK</b>
180	DEMOCRATIC <b>LORI M. OTVOS</b>

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

181	REPUBLICAN <b>GEORGE K. MEEK</b>
182	NO PARTY AFFILIATION <b>DOUGLAS SUNDELIUS</b>

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP CLERK  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

183	REPUBLICAN <b>SUSAN L. MORROW</b>
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PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP TREASURER  
4 YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)

184	REPUBLICAN <b>JAMES W. STOVER</b>
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PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
4 YEAR TERMS  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4)

185	REPUBLICAN <b>REBECCA BOREK</b>
186	REPUBLICAN <b>JACK HAGEDORN</b>
187	REPUBLICAN <b>ROBERT W. HEINDRICHS</b>
188	REPUBLICAN <b>WILLIAM JERRED PARRIS</b>

**PROPOSAL 04-2**

**A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO SPECIFY WHAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AS A "MARRIAGE OR SIMILAR UNION" FOR ANY PURPOSE**

The proposal would amend the state constitution to provide that "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."

Should this proposal be adopted?

PROPOSAL 04-2	
191	YES
192	NO

# Polling Locations

## PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### PCT # LOCATION

1	Plainfield Charter Township Offices 6161 Belmont Ave NE, Belmont
2	Pine Island Elementary School 6101 Pine Island NE, Comstock Park
3	West Oakview Elementary School 3880 Stuyvesant NE, Grand Rapids
4	Plainfield Fire Training Center 4383 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids
5	Northview High School 4451 Hunsberger Dr. NE, Grand Rapids
6	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 4610 Belding NE , Rockford
7	St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3215 Four Mile Road NE, Grand Rapids
8	Northview Highlands Middle School 4645 Chandy Drive NE, Grand Rapids
9	Comstock Park High School 150 Six Mile Road NE, Comstock Park
10	Assumption BVM Catholic Church 6390 Belmont Ave NE, Belmont
11	East Oakview Elementary School 3940 Suburban Shores NE, Grand Rapids
12	Plainfield Community Center 5255 Grand River Dr NE, Grand Rapids
13	St. Stephen's Lutheran Church 6070 Kuttshell Dr NE, Rockford
14	Rockford Freshman Center 4500 Kroes Dr. NE, Rockford
15	Plainfield Christian Church 7255 Pine Island Drive NE, Belmont

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

## FAREWELL!

I will be ending my term as Township Supervisor with the November 15 board meeting. The last four years have gone by fast as time seems to do when you are busy. This also will be the ending of my 37 years of service to Plainfield Charter Township as a Board Member and Planning Commission member.

I want to take this opportunity to challenge you as a resident of Plainfield Township to get involved in your community! Plainfield Charter Township has a number of boards and commissions on which residents may serve, such as:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Board of Review
- Building Board of Appeals
- Historical Preservation
- Library
- Parks & Recreation
- Senior Citizens

My family and I chose Plainfield Township as our home in 1965 and we have been pleased with our choice. We have seen the North Kent Mall be built and converted to Lowe's, the land-fill-gravel pit off Brewer Avenue developed as Boulder Creek Golf Course, and the wooded site on 5 Mile become Thousand Oaks Golf Club. Versluis Park is a jewel in our township park system that is enjoyed by many with its trails, beach and swimming. Quality housing developments are constructed every year and offer a living choice as I had in 1965.

As you read this, think about your ability to serve. Contact the Township Clerk or Supervisor and make known your interest and experience. Get involved in the growth of your community.

Thank you for your support.

*David M. Groenleer, Supervisor*

**W**ith all of the “extra” rain we seem to be getting these days, one may wonder where all of this water is going. When the storms come our way, we see the rain rush quickly from our rooftops, driveways, parking lots and streets to the closest street drain. These drains are appropriately termed storm drains.

Many cities in the United States used combined sewers until the mid 1940’s. These systems were designed to collect wastewater and stormwater in the same system and transport it to a treatment plant. During times of heavy rain, these systems were designed to overflow to prevent damage to the pipes. The overflow would discharge into the nearest body of water.

Since then, in a nationwide effort, wastewater pipes are being separated from stormwater drainage systems. The result of separating these sewer systems has been fewer releases of untreated wastewater to lakes and streams. However, other pollutants found in stormwater are no longer treated at the wastewater treatment plant. These pollutants accumulate between periods of rainfall, and then are washed down the storm drains during a rain event. They include substances such as motor oil from our vehicles, pet and animal wastes, fertilizers, and grass clippings from mowing our lawns. Since stormwater pipes are now directly routed to lakes and streams, these contaminants can have a significant impact on those waters.

Today’s wastewater treatment plants are working hard to make our wastewater as clean as possible before it is discharged to the Grand River. In fact, the wastewater is now often cleaner than the Grand River itself. The primary cause of pollution today in the Grand River is not from wastewater plants or industry; it comes from the many smaller sources like the pollution from our storm sewers.

# Rising Waters

The Clean Water Act of 1972 set up the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES program has required some communities in Michigan to

tackle the issue of stormwater pollution. A number of communities in Kent County have formed a committee that is working on cleaning up storm water pollution. This cooperative effort is actively seeking approaches to help citizens become ‘stormwater savvy’. Your Kent/Ottawa Stormwater Education Committee would like to remind you to be storm water savvy and utilize the recycling programs, practice proper solid waste disposal and utilizing your free residential hazardous waste program. Never dump substances down your drain or storm drains! Instead call to dispose of hazardous waste items such as gas and paint thinner through your free county program and help prevent additional storm water pollution. Be sure to share your knowledge of these programs that are available to protect our precious resources! Please call the Kent County Resource Recovery program at (616) 336-2501 or 1-888-217-2850 for more information on programs available for county residents.



# PLAINFIELD FD FIRE DEPARTMENT Homeland Security

I am writing this on September 11<sup>th</sup> having just returned from the annual conference of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. At the conference, the topic of terrorism, 9/11, and the resulting emphasis on "homeland security" was a frequent subject of conversation and debate. The media has written and discussed much about "homeland security" in the last several weeks. Much of the emphasis of this interest and conjecture has been on the nation's new and improved capabilities since 9/11. As a public safety professional who is active throughout the state, I have observed that there are several perspectives regarding this issue. I would like to offer my opinion on the subject.

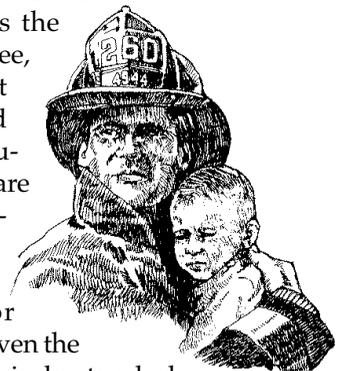
In my mind there is more than one level of "homeland security." First, I'll address the level that has garnered the most attention: that of terrorism, or its results. This is what the politicians and newscasters are referring to when they talk about "homeland security." This is where billions of dollars are being spent. This money has been spent to do threat assessments, and, based on those assessments the money has been allocated to state and local governments.

Michigan, Kent County, and Plainfield Township have all benefited from this process. Our school systems are more aware of the threats they face and are better prepared to deal with a disaster should one occur. First responders have additional capabilities that, in the event of a terrorist attack, will allow us to provide aid and assistance to our citizens. These efforts will benefit many people in the event of a large-scale incident, be it a terrorist attack, a natural, or manmade disaster. There is one very significant flaw in this plan. Prior to discussing this

flaw, I'll segue to the next level of "homeland security."

This next level, one that many people take for granted, is the capability the local first responder agency has. I would refer to this level as the "day-to-day security." We have Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement readily at hand providing this security. Statistically, we are much more likely to need this level of "homeland security" than the aforementioned. Most of us expect that if we are involved in an accident, our home catches on fire, or we have need for the police, first responders will be in route immediately, come with all of the resources necessary and stop, fix, or eliminate the problem, whatever it might be.

I'll limit my discussion to the area where I have the most expertise, fire departments. This supposition by citizens presents a challenge, and also is the crux of the flaw. You see, many agencies are not adequately equipped or staffed to handle routine incidents. There are times when many departments in the state have nowhere near enough people or equipment to handle even the simplest incident. This is due to a lack of funding. Because a community is rural or for some other reason there is too small a tax base, the community's priorities are such that the fire department is "down the list," or the fire chief has not made a convincing argument for adequate funding.



As fire chiefs go I'm pretty lucky. The elected officials in Plainfield Township provide the fire department with most of the equipment we need to do our job and they have allowed our employees to be properly trained. Plainfield is a steadily growing community with a good tax base and an appreciation for the life safety services that should be provided to our residents. Our main challenge is providing adequate staffing. The fire service must meet the challenge of being able to put sufficient resources on scene while not over burdening the budget. Many departments (including PFD) attempt to do this by utilizing a "small" contingent of full paid firefighters, supplemented by Paid-on-Call (POC) or Volunteer firefighters who respond to incidents requiring more personnel. This system works when there are enough people available to fill those POC/Volunteer positions. It is, however, a constant struggle to get people for these jobs because it requires extensive training, and a commitment of time that many people are not ready or able to make. We are always looking for new POC firefighters, so if you know of anyone who is interested in investing in their community, give us a call or check out our website ([www.plainfieldfire.org](http://www.plainfieldfire.org)) for more information.

To summarize my opinion on homeland security, we (citizens) anticipate two levels of security: day-to-day security and homeland security. The federal government has provided large sums of money for analysis of our capabilities to respond to a terrorist incident. The federal government has provided funding to purchase specialized equipment for first responders and special response teams who might respond to a terrorist incident. The federal government has provided funding for specialized terrorist response training for first responders. If the local government doesn't adequately train and equip a sufficient number of first responders to an appropriate level to provide day-to-day security, the federal government has wasted the monies spent on Homeland Security.

## Consumers to Build New Electric Line

### Growth in Kent County Makes New Line Necessary

**E**lectric use in the townships of Ada, Grand Rapids and Plainfield has increased by as much as 8 percent annually since 2000. This is more than twice the rate of growth in the rest of Consumers Energy's system. More than 150,000 accounts for new homes and businesses have been added to the system in this area including new subdivisions, shopping plazas, expanded entertainment venues and new homes in existing developments. Additional growth and expansion in the area are anticipated.

"Consumers Energy must expand its electric delivery system in the area," said Steve Ray, manager of electric system operations for the utility. "By building new lines, we can assure that we are able to meet our customers' expected demand for electricity in 2005 and beyond."

To address the need for more electricity infrastructure in the area, Consumers Energy is building a new 46,000-volt line. Portions of this line will be built on land owned by Consumers Energy since the 1950s. The new line in the township will run along Cannonsburg Road, Northland Drive and Plainfield Avenue. In some areas, Consumers Energy has acquired additional easement rights. In some locations, the new line will be added to existing utility poles.

"We are meeting with adjacent property owners, state, city and local government officials and other stakeholders to share information about the project, the construction schedule and address any concerns," said Ray.

The new line is scheduled to be operational in June of 2005 to help serve increased summer electricity demand.

## Evolution of a holiday.

As European immigrants came to America, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them. Because of the rigid Protestant belief systems that characterized early New England, celebration of Halloween in colonial times was extremely limited there. It was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups, as well as the American Indians, meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included “play parties,” public events held to celebrate the harvest, where neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other’s fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief making of all kinds. By the middle of the nineteenth century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

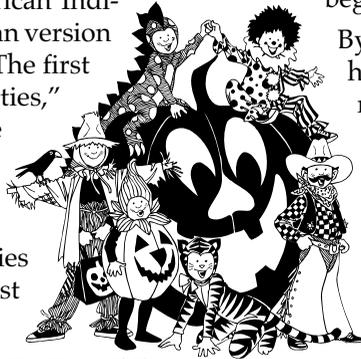
In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing Ireland’s potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Taking from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today’s “trick-or-treat” tradition. Young women believed that, on Halloween, they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings, or mirrors.

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers, than

about ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season, and festive costumes. Parents were encouraged by newspapers and community leaders to take anything “frightening” or “grotesque” out of Halloween celebrations. Because of their efforts, Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones by the beginning of the twentieth century.

By the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween had become a secular, but community-centered holiday, with parades and town-wide parties as the featured entertainment. Despite the best efforts of many schools and communities, vandalism began to plague Halloween celebrations in many communities during this time. By the 1950s, town leaders had successfully limited vandalism and Halloween had evolved into a holiday directed mainly at the young. Due to the high numbers of young children during the fifties baby boom, parties moved from town civic centers into the classroom or home, where they could be more easily accommodated. Between 1920 and 1950, the centuries-old

practice of trick-or-treating was also revived. Trick-or-treating was a relatively inexpensive way for an entire community to share the Halloween celebration. In theory, families could also prevent tricks being played on them by providing the neighborhood children with small treats. A new American tradition was born, and it has continued to grow. Today, Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country’s second largest commercial holiday.



# Halloween will be observed in Plainfield Charter Township on Saturday, October 30, 2004

## Keeping Safe on Halloween

**H**alloween is just around the corner. Each year kids are hurt due to auto accidents, fire injuries, falls, cuts, and bruises. The Kent County Sheriffs Department would like to remind you of a few safety tips to help keep our kids safe.

### TREATS

- 1) Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep the kids from eating the candy early is to feed them a meal before taking them out.
- 2) Check out all treats at home and discard anything that is unwrapped, torn, or loose.
- 3) If you should discover anything wrong with the treats your kids receive, report it to the Kent County Sheriffs Department at 632-6100.

### RISKY ROADWAYS

- 1) Kids become careless from excitement and may run into the road.
- 2) Dusk is the time of poorest visibility for drivers.

### DANGEROUS DRESS

- 1) Loose costumes, bulky bags and unsafe shoes
- 2) Masks that reduce vision
- 3) Sharp or pointed toy weapons
- 4) Dark, hard to see costumes

### FLAMES

- 1) Open flames from jack-o-lantern, candles
- 2) Flammable costumes
- 3) False hair – wigs that can burst into flames

### MAKEUP

- 1) Try makeup instead of a mask. Masks may be hot and will reduce vision. This is especially important when crossing the street.

### FLASHLIGHTS/GLOW STICKS

- 1) This will make a child visible and will let him/her see where they are going.

### REFLECTIVE STIPS & BAGS

- 1) Kids will be more visible to drivers.

### KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FOR "TRICK OR TREATERS"

- 1) Greet children at the door.
- 2) Remove obstacles from steps, sidewalks, and lawns to prevent accidents.
- 3) Keep lights on so children can see where they are walking.

Please help keep our kids safe. For additional information on Halloween safety or other child safety tips, please contact Deputy Keith Kazelskis at 632-6228.



# Plainfield Charter Township

## TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 364-8466

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

David Groenleer, Supervisor

Susan Morrow, Clerk

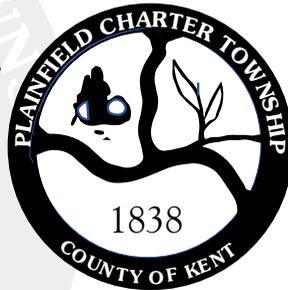
James Stover, Treasurer

Wendell Briggs, Trustee

Robert Heindrichs, Trustee

William Parris, Trustee

Charles Weldon, Trustee



## MANAGER

Robert Homan

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

### MEETINGS

7:30 p.m.

First and Third Mondays

[www.painfieldchartertp.org](http://www.painfieldchartertp.org)

## THE PROFILE

Plainfield Charter Township

6161 Belmont NE

Belmont, MI 49306

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