



# The Profile

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 1

OCTOBER 2012

More than forty years ago Kent County acquired more than 300 acres of property just east of Belmont Avenue at 10 Mile Road. The County wanted to construct a landfill for the growing volume of solid waste being generated at the time with no place to go. Landfills are not very welcome if you live anywhere near a proposed site, and the property owners near this one and the Plainfield Township Board did not favor it. It was built anyway, after a great deal of commotion and hard feelings that persisted for many years. Eventually, the 10 Mile Road Landfill was filled and capped, and the site has been used for a solid waste transfer station and drop off site for recyclable materials for the past twenty years.

In 2004, Plainfield Township and Kent County reached a new agreement for future use of this large tract of land. The northwest corner would continue to be used for what it is being used for now. Approximately 80 acres just east of the landfill was zoned for industrial development. The remaining 120 acres was designated for parks and recreation purposes, contingent upon Plainfield Township constructing a parks and recreation project by 2011. As 2011 approached,

the County and the Township changed the agreement to allow the 80 acres to become a large regional baseball-softball complex under the auspices of the West Michigan Sports Commission. This multi-million dollar project is expected to begin in 2013.



## Big New Park on Ten Mile Road!

At about this same time, Plainfield Township approved an agreement with the West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance to lease approximately 40 acres of hilly wooded land south of the landfill for bicycle and hiking trails. The initial phase of this project has just been completed and is open to the public. Limited parking is accessible via a gravel road south of the Township's water storage tower on 10 Mile. Future parking is expected to be built in conjunction with the baseball-softball project in 2013 or 2014 and will be located on the eastern portion of that complex. It will be accessed

from the intersection of Wolven and 10 Mile. The recently-completed major improvement of 10 Mile Road happened just before all of this comes about, so provisions for the entrance to the park have been anticipated.

Additionally, an organization of archery enthusiasts have partnered with Algoma Township

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## NEW PARK *continued from page 1*

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to secure a grant to build a professional quality regional archery center, and Plainfield Township is preparing to execute a lease with Algoma Township to locate the archery center just east of the entrance to the park. Initial grading has occurred, and we are confident that this development, too, will be constructed soon.

On September 13, the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorized the conveyance of the park land to Plainfield Township. This is truly a stellar example of intergovernmental cooperation among Kent County and its Board of Public Works, Plainfield Township, Algoma Township, the Kent County Road Commis-

sion and sports-oriented private sector organizations. Plainfield Township's long term planning to secure this huge area for public recreation purposes is coming to fruition, and it will benefit not only Plainfield Township residents, but the entire region. **Plainfield Township is accomplishing this without having to commit financial resources – other than the legal and limited engineering work needed to coordinate all of this.** Plainfield Township has no special millage for parks and recreation and does not foresee any new sources of money to engage in expansion or development of our parks. Acquiring the 10 Mile park property is clearly a major milestone for Plainfield Township.

# The End of a Long and Interesting Journey

**M**ore than 16 years ago the Plainfield Township Board of Trustees hired me to work for them as Plainfield Township's first Manager (technically, "Superintendent"). This was my third appointment as a township manager in the State of Michigan. After more than 40 years in local government, I have just submitted a letter to the Township Board stating that I intend to retire on March 2, 2013. Stress and difficulties often accompany a person in my position, but I consider my career to have been a privilege to work for the benefit of the communities I have served - particularly Plainfield Township, my home. As this may be my last *Profile* article, I'd like to reflect on my service to this community.

I think Plainfield Township is a better community than it was before I arrived, and I am pleased to be able to say that I had a positive role in helping to accomplish many good and lasting things that benefit this community - from building sidewalks to helping create the

North Kent Sewer Authority, which has recently assumed complete ownership and operational control over a public sewer collection and treatment system serving five municipalities. I am pleased to have played significant roles in many worthwhile projects - too many to recount here - in partnership with the Township Board, a dedicated staff, many citizens, and other communities.

As an appointed local government manager, I do not decide what public resources are spent, what services are provided, and what policies should be followed. I am taking this opportunity to acknowledge and affirm that the Township Manager works for your elected officials and is accountable to them - and is, I should add, through the Board, accountable to you. My entire career rests on that principle. My job as manager in a "council-manager" style of government is to follow the policies and directions of the elected officials at whose pleasure I serve. I may recommend, but the Board ap-

proves, or rejects, the appointment of department heads. I appoint the rest of the Township's employees under policies and contracts approved by the Board. I administer and enforce the ordinances and policies enacted by the Township Board. If and when the Board decides that their appointed manager's services are no longer required, that person goes. Everyone who cares about how their local government operates should be clear about this.

With the election in November, the Plainfield Township Board will have five new members in the space of eight months. As I have served different Township Boards through the previous four elections, I will serve the incoming Board that takes office on November 20. In addition to whatever programs, policies, and directives determined by that board, it is my

duty to help to assure a smooth and positive transition. Local government is complex and affected by a lot of history and requirements that need to be understood and managed. Someone in my position develops a huge bank of experience and knowledge that I brought to the job, and then I spent years understanding and managing how all this plays out here in Plainfield Township. Elected officials also must learn and familiarize themselves with the business of local government - as well as the details of how it works here in Plainfield Township. I will assist them in that effort until I leave my office. I wish to thank the Township Boards and really dedicated employees for the privilege and honor of working with them in the service of this fine community.

*Robert Homan, Township Manager*



## From the Assessor's Office

New legislation has been passed to allow for two dates, June 1 and November 1, to file for a Principle Residence Exemption (PRE). You must own and occupy your home by June 1 to qualify for a PRE for the summer tax levy, or November 1 to qualify for the PRE winter tax levy. Form 2368 for filing for the PRE and Rescission forms (to remove your PRE when you move from your home) are available on our website at [www.plainfieldchartertwp.org](http://www.plainfieldchartertwp.org).

You may have seen our appraiser in your neighborhood this summer. The State Tax Commission advises us to visit each property in the township on a five-year cycle. We are attempting to do this as staffing allows. The purpose of this is to update our records for accuracy of record cards. Letting our appraiser inspect your property thoroughly will insure that we have correct information on file and avoid mistakes. If you are unavailable we will leave a door hanger for you to complete and mail back to the office.

In keeping with safety and security procedures, all personnel from the Assessor's Office will be carrying a picture ID and drive a marked Township vehicle in the residential areas. Thank you for your cooperation.

After September 30, we will begin reviewing our one-year sales study to determine what changes will be made for the 2013 assessment year. We are fortunate, along with the other units of government in Kent County, to be using an updated version of our assessing software to aid in this process.

As always, we welcome you to our office to review our records and answer your questions. When you do stop in, you may notice Stacey Hayes is no longer in the Assessing Department. She left at the end of August, for a new position, and we would like to thank her for her eight years of service and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

*Judith LaFave, Assessor*

## Both Plainfield and Comstock Park branches are now Dewey-Free!

That is, no more Dewey Decimal System for shelving and classifying materials. Now all of our nonfiction collections are arranged in standardized subject areas, like a book store—no more numbers! For example, all books related to weddings including flowers, cakes, invitations, ceremonies, and so on are classified under the subject “Weddings” on library shelves. All Gardening and Landscaping books are in the “Garden” Section. “Biographies” includes people from all subject areas. The locations are indicated on the on the library electronic catalog, and will make it easier for you to browse our shelves. All the KDL branches will be Dewey-Free by the end of 2012.

### Programs and Events For Children and Families:

Starting in mid-September, both our Branches will offer Family Storytimes, Evening Storytimes, Toddler Times, and Preschool Storytimes, every week until mid-November. The Plainfield branch also provides Babytime. In addition, we’ll have some great programs this fall for families and school-age kids, including “Take it Apart,” “Grossology,” an “Out of This World Party,” a “Boxes” program, and Lego play. For specific days and times, check out our website at [www.kdl.org/events](http://www.kdl.org/events), or come into the library for a program brochure.

### For Adults

Take advantage of free Computer Confidence Classes for Adults at KDL—no matter what your skill level. In Plainfield Township, these are offered in the Computer Lab at the KDL Service Center building, at 814 West River Center

**KDL**  
Kent District Library  
[www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org)

(right behind the Wendy’s). Check [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) or call 616-784-2007 for a complete list of classes and information. Three classes are being offered at the Plainfield Township branch as well.

### Living Books: Check Out an Expert — Living Smart and Being Frugal

Interested in stretching your dollars? Gain ideas by hearing from experts Victoria Nystom & Paula Blumm, financial opportunity specialists with Goodwill Industries; Sarah Jehnzen, WOTV 4 Women’s couponing expert; and Melody VanderWeide from GRKids.com. Plainfield: Thursday, October 4, 5:30 PM

### Creating a Stockpile: Bulk Cooking Tips.

Comstock Park: Monday, October 15 at 6:30 PM

### Vegan in Grand Rapids: What? How? Why?

Comstock Park: Thursday, October 18, 6:30 PM

### Plainfield Branch Special Programs

#### Early Childhood Essentials

Receive professional development hours or just get some great information about early childhood – perfect for parents or childcare providers! Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. Adults only please; childcare is not provided.

Thursday, October 11, 6:30 PM – Teaching Pre-Reading Skills in Preschool

#### 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



# General Election November 6, 2012

## Important dates to remember

- October 9, 2012 – Voter registration deadline
- November 3, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. – Deadline for Absent Voter ballots requests by mail
- November 5, 2012 at 4:00 P.M. – Deadline for Absent Voter ballot requests
- November 6, 2012 – Election Day (7:00A.M. - 8:00 P.M.)

## Last day to register to vote

in order to participate in the November 6, 2012 General Election is October 9, 2012.

## Absentee Voting

Absent Voter applications are available at the Plainfield Township Clerk's office located at the 6161 Belmont Avenue, Belmont, MI. You may also contact Stephanie at 726-8884 or [mcmillens@plainfieldchartertp.org](mailto:mcmillens@plainfieldchartertp.org) and the application can be mailed to you.

- Electors who wish to apply for an absent voter ballot *by mail* must apply no later than November 3, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. The Township Clerk's office will be open on Saturday November 3rd from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. to issue absentee ballots. *No other departments will be open.*
- Those still wishing to receive an Absent Voter ballot after November 3rd can do so by voting in person at the Township Clerk's office on Monday, May 5th until 4:00 P.M.

## Voter identification requirements

are in effect – Michigan election law requires that each registered voter present a photo I.D. at the precinct in order to be issued a ballot.

## Electronic Poll Books

Plainfield Township has implemented the Electronic Poll Book (E-Poll Book). The E-Poll Book allows precinct officials to check voters in with a scan of their *driver's license* or *ID card*. The Electronic Poll Book is NOT connected to the internet and is strictly a voter registration database / election software program. The scanning of your driver's license or ID card does not, in any way, access your private, personal, or financial information or put your identity at risk of theft. Going from paper-based to an electronic system speeds up voter check-in, improves accuracy, and helps expedite election night returns.

## Michigan Voter Information Center

[www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

- Check to see if you are a registered voter
- Find your polling location
- View a sample ballot
- Register to vote
- Absentee voting
- Contact your local election official
- Learn to use your voting equipment
- Find answers to frequently asked questions

## Plainfield Charter Township website

[www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pctvoter](http://www.plainfieldchartertp.org/pctvoter)

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## Commodities Distribution from River Grove

Commodities are distributed from the River Grove Retirement Community, 5761 Jupiter Ave in Belmont from 9am to 1pm. The next distribution dates are December 6th, 2012 and March 9th, 2013.

Please bring picture ID's and proof of income for all members of the family. You must reside between 4 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road. Please call Jillian at (616) 447-0515 if you have any questions.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.



# Northview Senior Citizens Program has Something for Everyone!

**T**his active and engaged group is open to ALL of Plainfield Township and meets at the Plainfield Community Center at 5255 Grand River Dr. NE just west of E. Beltline. It offers a broad spectrum of programming. There is something for most everyone!

## Upcoming Programs

**Outings:** ArtPrize Tours, John Ball Zoo, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Dale and Gail's Music Room to name a few!

**Day Trips:** Grand Traverse Bay Color Tour, Frankenmuth, IKEA/Trader Joe's etc.

**Programs:** Apprentices for Life Lecture Series (this fall we have scheduled sessions on the Marimba, Travelogue on Australia and Ron Radmacher about the Backroads of Michigan), Healthy Cooking classes, Zentangle Art class, Mah Jongg lessons and more!

**Monthly Offerings:** Monthly luncheons with entertainment, Lunch 'N Movie group, Classic Film Fest and Book Club, free attorney consultation

## Weekly offerings:

**Exercise Programs:** Zumba Gold (see more details below), Yoga/Pilates for Seniors (one class utilizing a chair and a second class for intermediates) – each class offered two times a week, Stretch and Flex, Line Dancing and AFEP (sponsored through the Arthritis Program but effective for all).

**Card playing** (Samba and other games), Bridge and Mah Jongg each with a \$1 drop in fee.

**Craft Workshop, Wii Bowling and Silvertone's Choir** (see more details below)

## Highlighted Programs:

**NEW! Zumba Gold(r)** – Zumba Gold targets the largest growing segment of the population: baby boomers. It takes the Zumba formula and modifies the moves and pacing to suit the needs of the active older participant, as well as those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. What stays the same are all the elements the Zumba Fitness-Party is known for: the zesty Latin music, like salsa, merengue, cumbia and reggaeton; the exhilarating, easy-to-follow moves; and the invigorating, party-like atmosphere. Active older adults want camaraderie, excitement and fitness as a regular part of their weekly schedule. Zumba Gold is the perfect fit. It's a dance-fitness class that feels friendly, and most of all, fun. Classes are just \$3 drop in fee each Monday at 9:30 starting on September 24th.

**Silvertone's Choir** – The choir meets weekly to practice (September to December and March to May) and, about once a month, performs at area senior citizen communities throughout Grand Rapids area.

Contact Christine Friedt, Program Director, with questions or to be mailed a full newsletter at 365-6150 or [cfriedt@nvps.net](mailto:cfriedt@nvps.net)

# The Long Hot Summer is Over

Looking back at the long hot summer of 2012, I trust you have some very good memories of your activities with friends and loved ones. During the days of incredible



heat and humidity, it looked as if summer would never end when sitting in a traffic slow-down due to construction projects on our roads and highways. It seems there has been an unusually high number of road projects this summer, plus a number of water/sewer projects that affected the roads indirectly. Bottom line; it was difficult finding a direct route to your destination no matter where you were going.

Those of us in Plainfield Charter Township had our fair share of detours and traffic slow-downs during this construction season. However, I believe the Township's infrastructure and roadways are greatly improved for all the inconvenience we have experienced. It's unfortunate that Michigan's construction season is so limited for this type of work.

One of the major projects for road improvement was the 10 Mile Road enhancement from Meijer, at the expressway, east to the City of Rockford. The south side of 10 Mile at Wolven is the proposed entrance to the new sports complex being developed by the West Michigan Sports Authority. Along with the nine ball diamonds, including a "miracle field" for challenged children, there is a completed mountain biking and hiking trail called "The Merrell Trail," with current access from the dirt road

behind Macatawa Bank. In addition, there will be a professional-style archery range for the enjoyment of all archers in the area.

These three sports venues should provide Plainfield and Algoma Townships and the city of Rockford with an influx of tourism. It will be very nice to see and have these projects change the scenery of the 330-acre tract of land. The leaders of the three communities hope you will take advantage of the outdoor opportunities that are being created for your health and enjoyment.

UNFORTUNATELY, this is the last article I will contribute to *The Profile* as Supervisor of Plainfield Charter Township. In this year's Primary Election, enough of the voters chose to believe the malicious and false accusations made by a small group of people against me, the current Treasurer and two Trustees, and have elected four individuals with no experience in township government.

I will leave office knowing I have served the citizens of Plainfield Charter Township with integrity and to the best of my ability. Looking back on the many accomplishments that have been made under my tenure, I am grateful to my fellow board members, the township's employees, and Superintendent Bob Homan, for their faithful service and dedication in carrying out the board's policy decisions.

I want to extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all my supporters for allowing me to serve you and the Township in various capacities for over 35 years; the last eight years as your Supervisor. Plainfield Charter Township is a great place to live and raise a family, and I truly hope it continues to be a place to be proud of.

*George K. Meek, Supervisor*

From its beginning in 1997, the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) has steadily made progress in righting a sinking ship and building a remarkable public sanitary sewer system through a gargantuan effort of five communities. After eventually fruitless negotiation with the City of Grand Rapids to continue to receive and treat the sewage of Plainfield Township, Rockford, Alpine Township, Cannon Township, and Courtland Township, the NKSA in 2008 completed construction of a state-of-the-art treatment plant that produces drinkable water. Avoiding control of development and sewer rates by Grand Rapids, the five communities are doing it right - together - at lower cost than we would be paying Grand Rapids for an inferior product. Now, after more than 40 years of having our sewer collection system being operated and maintained by the Kent County Board of Public Works, Plainfield Township has arrived at another milestone; we are taking advantage of new technology, continued cooperation with our neighbors, and economies of scale by contracting with the NKSA again to do it better and at lower cost.

After years of watching this drama unfold, working together to make good things happen, and seeing the fruits of our labors, the NKSA partner communities are taking constructive possession of a vital public asset that enables us to live together in a sustainable manner, respect and preserve our natural environment, and to prosper economically. I know that it is

## North Kent Sewer Authority Reaches another Milestone

difficult to get people excited about running a sewer system, but it really isn't much different than running any other enterprise that makes the world go round. What we are doing with our sewer system is paying close attention to the nitty-gritty of our society. Infrastructure is vital, needs to be looked after, and needs to be well-managed. We're doing that!

Team NKSA now consists of eight important people who, like most public utilities workers, are largely anonymous. Director Larry Campbell, a seasoned veteran of public sector utilities operations manages the team. He has five people who have been operating the famous PARCCside Clean Water Plant (located

on Coit Avenue west of Hunsberger Avenue) since 2008. They are being joined by two experienced Kent County DPW veterans who know our sewer system well and who bring years of vital system knowledge to this new venture. One more qualified person is being hired and will round out the team. They will be cross-trained, using multiple skills, and enabling us to get the best product for the sewer rates we pay to support the team. The NKSA is gearing up to provide a more efficient and more cost effective sewer system operation, using improved technology and a new management approach. Some functions that have been done in-house will be contracted and provided at an overall reduced cost. Do not get the impression that we are about to begin a cut-rate approach to this job. The NKSA will continue to provide a forward-looking, reliable,

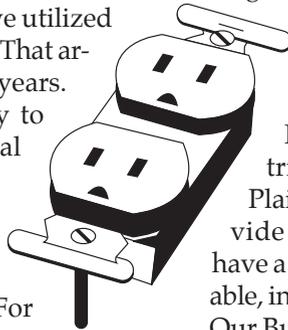
and quality approach to keeping our sewer collection system ahead of the curve. The NKSA has smart, reliable, conscientious and hardworking people that we will be depending on to do the important job that we have entrusted to them.

Although water system and sewer system workers are not the public safety folks who typically get the praise and respect that they deserve; they are every bit as vital to the welfare and stability of our community as police and firefighters. When your children visit the Clean Water Plant and Plainfield Township's water production and conditioning plant, be

sure to remind them that their work is worthy and deserving of respect and appreciation. Water and sewer systems workers don't work for profit or praise. They don't expect public recognition, but they are entitled to the acknowledgement that they are public servants who work to make our lives better and smoother. I am honored to have this opportunity to shine a light on them and give them their due. Keep them in your thoughts and kind regards whenever you turn on that faucet and when you hear the water go down the drain. It doesn't just "happen;" real people are out there doing their jobs to make things work for you.

## Electrical and Mechanical Permits and Inspections Update

Plainfield Township recently contracted with Cascade Township's Inspection Services to administer our electrical and mechanical applications. Prior to this arrangement, the township processed all electrical and mechanical permits in-house but we utilized outside contractors for inspections. That arrangement worked well for many years. However, we had an opportunity to consolidate our entire mechanical and electrical permit programs under one roof with an established service. This has resulted in financial savings, more efficiency, and improved customer service. For example, Cascade's inspectors are available to our customers five days a week. Prior to this arrangement, we only offered inspections two days a week. In addition, Plainfield and Cascade Township use the same permit software programs and our customers can now view up-to-date inspection results online. This is a much desired service, especially for mechanical and electrical contractors, that we were not able to offer before the contract with Cascade Township.



All of the mechanical and electrical permit information can be found on Cascade Township's website at: [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) (navigate to Building Inspections) or by calling their Building Department at 949-3765. Links to Cascade

Township's website/information can also be found on Plainfield Township's website.

Keep in mind that mechanical and electrical permits represent trade services. Plainfield Township will continue to provide building permit administration. We have a Building Official/Inspector that is available, in-house, to our residents and contractors. Our Building Official/Inspector is often available during the morning hours (afternoon inspections) for any questions. However, in light of the uncertainty of day-to-day inspection scheduling, please feel free to call the Community Development Department at 364-1190, to arrange an appointment with the Building Official/Inspector and/or to find out if he is available when you are.

*Community Development Department*



## Items of Interest

### Physical Fitness

**W**e have recently instituted a policy that requires firefighters involved in suppression activities to annually pass the same test that we require of new applicants. This is not being done to eliminate personnel, but to protect everyone. I will not put myself in the position of having to tell someone's husband, wife or parent that their loved one died trying to save someone who was severely out of shape and should not have been fighting fire or died because the person trying to rescue them was severely out of shape. Therefore, we have mandatory physical fitness requirements for those people on duty and annual testing for all employees.

Firefighting is a dangerous and physically demanding occupation. In emergency operations, a firefighter's physical capacity is a valuable resource. At times this can mean the difference between saving the life of a resident, a coworker, or their own. Firehouse Magazine in the article, "The Four Components of Firefighter Fitness" says; "It has been said that firefighters expend as much energy during a major emergency as the players in a football game, if not more." This assertion is supported by many studies that demonstrate the need for, and benefits of, high levels of physical fitness in the fire service. NFPA 1500, the Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program states, "Fire fighting and the delivery of other emergency services continues to be a hazardous job. However, the poor medical condition or physical fitness of some

members ... continues to further erode the safe delivery of emergency services." The Standard goes on to require; "10.3.1 The fire department shall establish and provide a health and fitness program that meets the requirements of NFPA 1583, Standard on Health-Related Fitness Programs for Fire Fighters, to enable members to develop and maintain a level of fitness that allows them to safely perform their assigned functions." This places a burden on the Township to provide the opportunity to maintain an appropriate level of fitness, and on the employee to take advantage of the opportunity.

I am aware that there are some who question the expense of sending our employees to a "health club" while they are being paid. However, the previous paragraphs document the need and requirement for a program that provides this dual benefit. I say dual benefit because the employee has the opportunity to improve or maintain their health and the Township benefits from less exposure to insurance claims and better performing employees. The cost for having the use of the facilities at Anytime Fitness or Snap Fitness, is clearly less expensive to Plainfield Township than trying to maintain adequate equipment at our fire stations. We do not provide individual memberships; we have an agreement that allows our employees to use the facilities at a reduced rate.

The firefighters respond to any calls during their workout time, so there is no additional delay attributed to their being out of the sta-

tion. The downside to operating in this manner is the visibility to the public - and the questions this may raise. In this age of "transparency," it would seem that we should regard this as an "upside," rather than a negative.

All of our employees have given up some liberties to serve the community as members of the fire department. We have a non-tobacco use policy that applies 24/7, whether at work or not, and now the requirement to maintain their physical fitness. I have always said that regardless of what other accomplishments I have made in the fire service, if I can retire without ever having lost a firefighter, I will consider that my greatest achievement. This program works towards making that an achievable goal.

### **Fireworks**

It is imperative for the safety of our residents to use fireworks responsibly. The passing of a new fireworks law, combined with the dry weather in June and July, has caused the fire department to be busy. In the less than two months since June 1st we have responded to over three times as many wild land fires as we did in all of last year! Certainly not all, but many of these fires, were started by the careless use of fireworks. In one instance, we fought a fire that threatened an apartment building. We know that fire was started by fireworks. If someone were to be ticketed for careless use of fireworks under the new law, we

would follow up with a bill under the Township's Cost Recovery ordinance for nearly \$2800.

### **FEMA Grant**

The fire department was recently awarded a grant from FEMA as part of the SAFER - Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response - program. The grant covers the cost for two firefighters for two years. We have been fortunate in that our staff has written several successful grants in the recent past. These grants have provided over a half a million dollars for staffing and equipment that would have placed a significant burden on the Township's budget had we not received them.

### **Insurance Ratings**

If you live within 1000' of a fire hydrant, your insurance premium may be eligible to be reduced. IF not, it should have remained the same. The Township was recently rerated by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). Our rating in aread Dispatch and 50% on the Fire Department. I have written in the past how residents receive a significant benefit from having a capable fire department. I need to make sure that everyone appreciates the efforts of our community to provide an excellent water supply and dispatch.

*Chief David Peterson*

## Passport Office Open Saturday, November 3

**P**lainfield Charter Township's Passport Office will be open to accept passport applications on Saturday, November 3, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are always happy to work with any organization or group that is planning a trip requiring passports. The Township's passport agents will make special arrangements to have our office open after hours or on a weekend to assist the members of your group with obtaining their passports.



*Scott Harvey, Clerk*

# The Profile

Plainfield Charter Township  
6161 Belmont NE  
Belmont, MI 49306

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

## Plainfield Charter Township

**TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS**  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday  
Phone: 364-8466

**TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
George Meek, Supervisor  
Scott Harvey, Clerk  
James Stover, Treasurer  
Catherine Bottema, Trustee  
Jack Hagedorn, Trustee  
Vic Matthews, Trustee  
Charles Weldon, Trustee



**MANAGER**  
Robert Homan

**TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**  
7:30 pm  
First and Third Mondays

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

## Calling All Old School Group Photos

The Plainfield Township Historical Committee wants your help in collecting old school photographs. Do you have a grade school group photo you would like to share? If so, we would like to copy it. If you have photos from any of the following old school districts: Belmont, Colton, Post, Goff, Sage, D.W. Richardson, Wilson, Peach Grove, Brownell, Atwater, Comstock Park, and Oakwood), please call the township office at (616) 364-8466. Please leave your name and phone number or email address so we can contact you, or bring it to the township hall for scanning.

**2012 HYSER HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**  
*ALL TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM AT THE MUSEUM*  
September 25th  
October 23rd  
November 27th

**2012 HYSER HOUSE MUSEUM OPEN SUNDAYS FROM 2 TO 4:30 PM ON THESE DATES:**  
October 6th  
November 4th  
December 2nd