

The Business Page



Spring/Summer 2006

Plymouth Township (734) 453-3840

Growing corporations bring economic development to Plymouth Township

Officials are pleased to welcome the Robert Bosch Corporation's new Automotive Technical Center to Plymouth Township. The 225,000 sq. ft., \$37.5 million facility, which broke ground last November, is currently being constructed at Haggerty and Five Mile Roads. It is expected to be completed in late 2006.

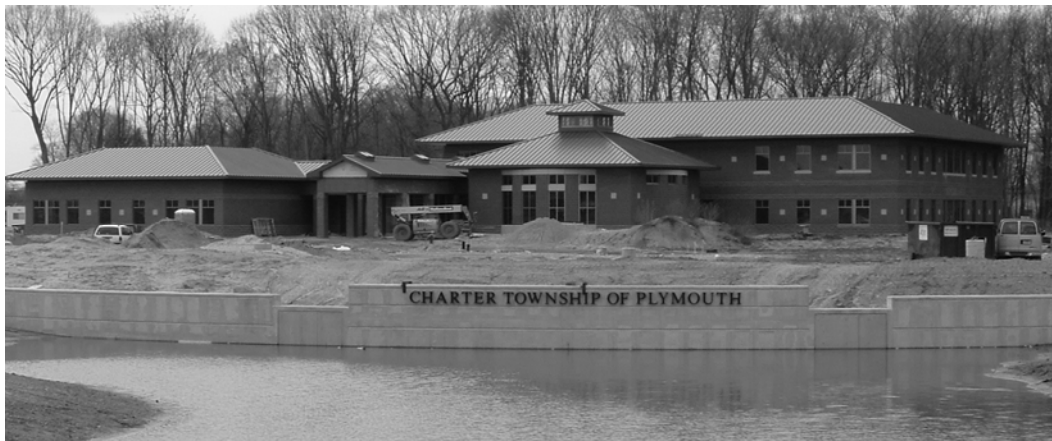
According to Bosch, the facility will include research and development as well as administrative space for its automotive body electrical and electronics division, initially housing 475 employees.

On the west side of Plymouth Township, manufacturer Comau Pico Inc. also plans to construct a new facility. The company plans to consolidate its Metro Detroit operations into its North American headquarters and manufacturing campus on Five Mile Road west of Ridge Road.

Supervisor Richard Reaume believes that both these projects and the other economic development in Plymouth Township are great progress for the region. "The Plymouth Township oar is in the water and we are pulling alongside the State of Michigan and the County of Wayne to create economic development and jobs."



Construction of the Robert Bosch Corporation Automotive Technical Center began in 2006. Located on Five Mile Road and Haggerty Road, it is expected to be operational in 2007.



We are relocating!
Plymouth Township offices, located at 42350 Ann Arbor Road, will move to our new facility in late June.

Our new address is:
9955 N. Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Spotlight on FOG prevention (Fat, Oil and Grease)



Fat, oil and grease in sewer pipes, referred to as FOG, create pollution problems in many communities. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains.

Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward—out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment.

Impact of FOG

Preventing sewer backups from FOG blockages saves taxpayers money and protects the environment. When sewer pipes on private property back up, the owner is responsible for the cleanup. For example, if a resident regularly pours grease down a drain, it will eventually cool, harden and form a blockage in the sewer pipe. Sewage then backs up through floor drains and toilets at the lowest point in the house. A plumber will have to be hired to clean the sewer and possibly repair plumbing inside the home. Cleanup costs can be expensive.

Business owners and residents can help control the problem by properly disposing of fat, oil and grease. Everyone is part of the solution.

Sources of FOG

Fat, oil and grease are by-products of cooking found in:

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter, margarine or shortening

Negative Effects of FOG

- Attracts insects and rodents
- Property damage from sewage backups that is not always covered by insurance
- Sewage overflows in streets or rivers
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup
- Higher operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments and residents

Keep Drains Clear

Follow these tips:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Do Not:

- Pour fat, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces.

Cleaning FOG build-up from sewers increases maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer system. FOG can create sewer overflows.

Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fat, oil and grease out of our sewers.

Second water tower to be constructed in Township

Property owners in Plymouth Township will benefit from the construction of a new elevated water storage tank at Five Mile and Beck Roads.

Once the storage tank is operational the Township will purchase water from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department at off-peak rates to fill the tank and provide water to customers during peak hours. Users west of Beck Road should notice an increase

in water pressure as well.

The property where the storage tank will be located was part of the former Western Wayne Correctional facility. The parcel on Five Mile Road next to Home Depot was deeded to Plymouth Township by the State of Michigan. The project is expected to start this summer and be completed in late 2007.

Rouge River Minute: computer recycling



According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) increasing technological change, as well as decreasing computer chip costs are spurring the development of new products and driving the obsolescence rates of older electronics.

Based on that, the average lifespan of PC's fell from 4.5 years in 1992 to an estimated 2 years in 2005, the EPA estimated that at the end of 2005 more than 250 million personal computers became obsolete. As most of you are aware, in order for many businesses to stay competitive they may be turning over large quantities of computers every few years.

The problem, according to the EPA, is that several contaminants found in computer equipment can cause serious health problems when disposed of in landfills or incinerated.

Because of this, over the next several months the Charter Township of Plymouth will be looking into disposal solutions for businesses including compiling EPA and State of Michigan recommendations for best identifying quality computer and electronics recyclers and reuse/donation organizations. If your business has a program in place let us know about it so we can pass along your successes to others in the community. Working together we can help to ensure that our community has done its best to keep our land and waterways clean.



Contact the Charter Township of Plymouth Solid Waste Department at (734) 453-8131, ext. 33.

Loan dollars available for pollution prevention or conservation projects



The State of Michigan has low interest environmental loans available up to \$300,000 at a maximum interest rate of 5% for existing businesses with 500 employees or less. Qualifying projects for loans include pollution prevention projects, or projects that conserve water or energy at the business.

For more information call 1-800-662-9278 or visit www.michigan.gov/deqp2loan.

A note about: landscape maintenance



In the warmer weather our attention turns to the outdoors and the exterior appearance of our businesses. Did you know that Ordinance 99, Section 26.8 requires that landscaping be maintained in a neat, orderly and healthy growing condition free from debris and refuse?

Additional mulch is often needed for the growing beds. Now is also a good time to do a spring clean-up on the outside of your business, and wipe away the winter dirt and grime.

Ann Arbor Road Sale Days July 15—July 23, 2006

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has announced plans for the Second Annual Ann Arbor Road Sale Days to take place **Saturday, July 15—Sunday, July 23**. This is a special promotion organized by the Chamber's Ann Arbor Road Business Committee.

Businesses along the Ann Arbor Road corridor will offer special discounts and participate in a grand prize drawing. For more information, please contact the Chamber Office at 734-453-1540.

Plymouth Township Police Community Watch system issues crime alerts to keep you informed

The Plymouth Township Police Department instituted the Community Watch system 6 years ago in part to keep the business community informed about any crime trends in business and industrial areas of the Township.

What is Community Watch?

Community Watch is a computerized telephone inbound-outbound community messaging system, used to enhance crime prevention efforts.

How does it work?

A recent example:

Recently there was a rash of breaking and enterings at industrial complexes. The suspects were breaking an office window after viewing laptop computers or other portable equipment from the outside. Using the Community Watch system, the Police Department sent out a message to all of the industrial complexes in the Township, advising them to close the blinds and draperies when closing the office for the day.

How do you join the system?

The Police Department is in the process of updating their contact list for the Community Watch System. Many businesses are already in the system, but in order to ensure that *your* business will be notified in the event of a crime alert, you need to supply some basic information.



Please contact Officer Jamie Senkbeil via email at jsenkbeil@plymouthtwpd.org and provide your company name, address, telephone number and fax number.

Questions?

Contact Officer Senkbeil at (734) 354-3243 or jsenkbeil@plymouthtwpd.org.

Citizen Police Academy now accepting applicants from business community

The Plymouth Township Police Department will host a Citizen Police Academy in Fall 2006. Participants in this 10-week program will meet one evening a week at the new police facility located at 9955 Haggerty Road (north of Ann Arbor Road). The building, which also includes the new Township Hall, is currently under construction and is expected to be open this summer.

Topics of the academy sessions include training, communication, canine, court, patrol, Fire, SWAT and recruiting. Instruction consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours and riding with a police officer. The objective is to give the public a working knowledge of the Plymouth Township Police

Department policies and procedures and to increase understanding between the citizens through education and interaction with members of the department.

To apply, you must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in the Plymouth area. Applications are available on the Plymouth Township website or you can obtain one by contacting Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3243, jsenkbeil@plymouthtwpd.org.

Enrollment is limited to 25 students on a first come-first serve basis. Graduates of the program include doctors, homemakers, students, retirees, engineers and teachers. There is no cost to the participants.

Plymouth Township is on the web at www.plymouthtwp.org