

# The Source

For Shelby Township and Utica

Sunday, April 19, 2015

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## BRIEFS

### Rep. Lucido hosts town halls to discuss Proposal 1

State Rep. Peter Lucido invites residents of the 36th District - which includes Shelby, Washington and Bruce townships, and Romeo - to informational town halls about the May 5 state-wide ballot proposal on road funding in Michigan. Lucido will be joined by representatives from Michigan Department of Transportation; Architects, Engineers and Surveyors Association; and Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association. Town halls will take place April 20, from noon to 2 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Shelby Township Senior Center, 51670 Van Dyke. Residents who cannot attend are encouraged to contact Lucido at 888-MICH-REP or PeterLucido@house.mi.gov

### Clean Up Day set

Shelby Township Clean Up Day is set for April 25. Regis-

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## REGULATIONS

# Trustees adopt amendments to gas, oil drilling ordinance

By **SEAN DELANEY**

Source Staff Writer

In response to lingering concerns about a controversial drilling operation last summer, the Shelby Township Board of Trustees on April 7 approved the second reading and adoption of multiple amendments to a township zoning ordinance that would place stricter regulations on gas and oil processing facilities operating within the township's boundaries.

"The Michigan Supreme Court has not clarified what the municipalities can do (in regards to gas and oil drilling)," said township attorney Rob Huth. "What the Board of Trustees has done is say, specifically in this ordinance, that state law does not address how many trucks will be able to roll through the site, where the pipeline is going to go and what kind of activities are going to be allowed in residential areas. Those



are all areas of concern for folks who live not only 470 feet away from the well as I do, but all throughout the township."

According to Planning and Zoning Director Glenn

Wynn, the township's zoning ordinances previously lacked standards for the location and operation of gas and oil processing facilities. The newly approved standards assure that activ-

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FILE PHOTO

ities permitted by state law for the township to regulate are located in appropriate zoning districts and operated based on an accepted standard to alleviate the potential for nuisances to any adjoining residential neighborhoods.

"These are amendments to the text of the ordinance that provide performance standards and direction as to where we would allow these operations," Wynn said.

The amendments were first brought to the board after the Planning Com-

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COMMUNITY » PAGE A2

Blind teen raises hundreds for guide dog organization



FAMILY » PAGE B1

The secret to Mother's Day gifting success

GIRLS SOCCER » PAGE C1

Utica blanks Stevenson, 4-0

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# Ordinance

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mission held a public hearing Feb. 23.

“The Board of Trustees approved the introduction of this ordinance amendment on March 17, and a notice of introduction was published in the paper,” Wynn said. “We’re now ready for the second and final step of the adoption process.”

According to Huth, the changes to the zoning ordinance are consistent with state law and include the following provisions:

- Any ancillary use, structure or facility (used for the drilling, completion or operation of an oil and gas well)

is not authorized unless it is determined by the reviewing board or commission that there will be no likely pollution, diminishment or impairment of the air, water, natural resources or adjacent land uses.

- A minimum setback of 660 feet from the property line is required for any oil, gas, injection well, pad, structure or facility when an oil and gas development abuts a residential zoning district.

“Adding these proposed standards ensures that these facilities are located in appropriate zoning districts, and operated based on an accepted standard to alleviate the potential for nuisances in any adjoining residential neighborhoods,” said Trustee Paul Viar.

While adoption of the proposed amendments was unanimous, resident Ron Churchill said he felt the board’s actions didn’t go far enough.

“This is nothing but lip service to appease the people of Shelby Township,” he said. “We are just kicking the can down the road. What we need to do is change the state law.”

For more on the ordinance, visit the township’s website at [www.shelbytwp.org](http://www.shelbytwp.org)

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*Contact Sean Delaney at 586-323-8127 or [sean.delaney@advisorsource.com](mailto:sean.delaney@advisorsource.com). Follow him on Twitter @ [sdelaney81](https://twitter.com/sdelaney81) or on Facebook at Sean Delaney. Subscribe to his Tout feed at [www.tout.com/u/sdelaney81](http://www.tout.com/u/sdelaney81)*