

Volume 7 Issue 1

April, 2007

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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On the Web:

www.superior-twp.org

734-482-6099

734-482-3842 Fax

Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI

734-480-5500

Office hours 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM

24/7 Emergency Service

For Water & Sewer Emergencies

Superior Township Fire Department

7999 Ford Road

Ford and Prospect Roads

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734-484-1996

In Emergency dial 911

Fire Station #2

Corner of Harris and MacArthur

Dial 911 for Emergencies

Parks & Recreation

575 E Clark Rd, Ypsilanti, MI

734-480-5502

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C/O 3040 Prospect Road

Ypsilanti, MI 48189

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From our Superior Supervisor . . .

The recent proposed loss of major employment opportunities for Washtenaw County and Superior Township clearly has a trickle down impact on the quality of life we enjoy. Fortunately, the high quality of service will continue in Superior Township as the Board prepared in the past by saving for the rainy day. It appears the rainy days will be here for awhile. Creativity and deployment of assets will allow the Township the ability to survive and attempt to minimize the negative economy. Collaboration with neighboring communities when possible will be used to continue service and reduce cost. Examples of collaboration being proposed are creation of a regional



William McFarlane, Supervisor

police department. Superior Township and six other townships with the City of Ypsilanti continue to investigate that possibility. Currently, a Request for Proposal has been issued to study the concept on behalf of the seven townships and city. Several reasons follow for the rational for that investigation. The uncertainty of fu-

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Superior news you can use

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP HAS A LIBRARY!

Last August the voters in the Willow Run, Ypsilanti, and Plymouth Canton School Districts voted to join the Ypsilanti District Library and we now have a small demonstration library in the Community Room of the Fire Substation at the corner of Harris and MacArthur. In addition to the books and other print materials, the

library has four computer stations connected to the internet, videos, DVDs, and services such as story hours. You may also order materials from the main library and pick them up at our library. The current hours are Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 8, and Tuesday and Saturday from 10 to 2.

Come in and check it out!

From our Superior Utility Department

Rick Church/Diana Ravis

SUMMER WATERING CAN BE VERY COSTLY



Some of our residents had extremely high water usage last spring, summer and fall, resulting in their having very high water bills (\$700 and up). We attribute this to new sod being laid and/or new landscapes being planted and/or lawn sprinkler systems being installed.

If you are planning on any of the above, or if you believe you will be doing a lot of outside watering for any reason, we highly recommend that you consider purchasing a sprinkler meter in order to help reduce your water bills. If a sprinkler meter is installed, we are able to measure the amount of water you have used for your lawn, garden, etc., versus the amount of water you have used inside your home for such things as bathing and laundry.

Water that is used outside does not go back

into the sewer system, it goes into the ground. Once we are able to measure that usage through the use of a sprinkler meter, we can eliminate the sewage related charges from that portion of your bill and only charge you for the water usage.

Since sewage related charges constitute approximately forty percent of the total rate, the billing for your outside watering is then reduced by approximately forty percent. Please note that your house (inside) water usage would continue to be billed for both water and sewage related charges.

Please contact our department at 734-480-5500 for additional information on purchasing and installing a sprinkler meter.

Our Neighborhood Watch

Marc Breckenridge will be the guest speaker at the May 22, Superior Twp. Neighborhood Watch meeting.

The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Superior Twp. Hall at 3040 N. Prospect Road. Mr. Breckenridge will talk about the Washtenaw County Emergency Management Program, Homeland Security, Severe weather, and ways the public can better prepare for such hazards.

All Township residents are welcome to attend neighborhood watch meetings and become actively involved in the program.

For more information on Superior Township Neighborhood Watch, contact John Hudson, Township Coordinator, at jhudson300606MI@comcast.net or by phone at 657-4001.



Blanket Express- Brenda McKinney, Treasurer

I would like to thank all of the Superior Township residents who supported an purchased blankets for the Blanket Express Drive. With all of your support, we were able to collect over 300 blankets. These blankets went to various charities including:

Hurricane Katrina Relief, Safehouse for Domestic Violence, Homeless feeding programs and other local non-profit organizations.

We will be participating again in December of 2007.

News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney

Would you like to know where your 2006 tax dollars went?

Here is a brief Summary

I collected \$21,753,314 in property taxes for the 2006 Tax Season.

Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,293,075	Washtenaw County Tax:	\$ 3,060,313
Plymouth Schools:	\$ 223,885	Township Tax:	\$ 419,117
Willow Run Schools:	\$ 2,487,707	Fire Department Tax:	\$ 1,676,230
Ypsilanti Schools:	\$ 1,753,791	Law Fund Tax	\$ 1,114,521
State Education Tax:	\$ 3,382,230	Legal Defense Fund Tax:	\$ 132,034
Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 445,595	Ypsilanti Library Tax:	\$ 486,917
Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,015,931	Community College:	\$ 1,994,872
Wayne ISD:	\$ 111,126	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,392



**Our Treasurer
Brenda L. McKinney**

In conclusion, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$153,578, which included county drain assessments, streetlights, side street maintenance, delinquent water bills, ordinance violations and false

alarms. In addition, 1012 parcels went delinquent; the total amount unpaid was \$1,778,446 and this amount was turned over to Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection. Your dollars at work!

(Continued on page 7)



Kay Williams, Clerk

News from our Superior Clerk

Kay Williams

Mark your calendar for the May 8 School Election.

If you are on the permanent absent voter list, I will be sending you an application to vote on or about April 10. If you are not on the list, you may apply for an absent voter ballot up until the day before the election. Check the Superior website – www.superior-twp.org – under *voting/elections* for complete information, or call me, 734-482-6099.

The candidates seeking office for the various schools are as follows:

Ann Arbor Public Schools – Elect 1 –
4-yr term -Randy Friedman

Plymouth Canton Schools - Elect 1 –

4-yr term -Nancy Eggenberger, Rich Ham-Kucharski, Kurt L. Heise, Bruce C. Koldys, Larry A. Martin, Mark Slavens

Willow Run Community Schools- Elect 1 –

4-yr term -Travis G. Greer, Kristine L Thomas

Ypsilanti Schools – Elect 2 –

4-yr term -Floyd Brumfield, Andy Fanta

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Our Superior Parks

2007 Summer Learning Camp

We are pleased to announce the 2007 Summer Learning Camp. This year's camp begins Monday, June 25 and concludes on Friday, August 10 (no camp on July 4th). The hours of operation are from 8:30 am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday. Last year our summer camp moved to its current location in the Old Township Hall on the corner of Prospect and Cherry Hill Road. This new location offers a spacious park area right next to our building. This area offers all of the amenities we need to safely accommodate your children during our exciting summer program. Cost for the seven week program is \$500.00 per child, ages 6 through 13. Scholarships are available for Superior Township

children which brings down the cost to \$75.00 per child.

This coming summer we have many activities planned. Some of the field trips will include a weekly outing to the Rutherford Pool for water activities, the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, the University of Michigan Field Museum, Eastern Michigan University, our local NAACP branch and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. We will also have daily visits to the local parks, libraries and nature areas. Some of the field trips will correspond to our weekly themes. Educational themes this year include plants, animals, dinosaurs, space and American civics. This summer we will also have several musical recitals.

To receive a registration form, please contact us at (734) 480-5502 or visit us at www.superior-twp.org.

Our Superior Roads

David Zelisse, Roads Committee

A Couple of Things to note about Our Gravel Roads-

First, there is brush cutting being performed by the County Road Commission. Some of our residents are concerned about the loss of vegetation, but this maintenance allows for the safe passage of all vehicles without being swiped with branches. Ideally the brush should be cut back past the center of the ditch. This helps with drainage, allows the edge of the roads to dry faster, and reduces the likelihood of ice and puddles. All these things lead to safer roads. Don't worry, vegetation will come back by mid summer again.

The other item is the speed limit. According to the State, speed is regulated by the Basic Speed Law. This

means that the speed limit is

UP TO 55 MPH IF CONDITIONS PERMIT. Pot holes, snow/ice, wet conditions, loose gravel, sight distance, road curvature, other vehicles, farm equipment, pedestrians, wildlife/animals, and other factors will reduce this speed.

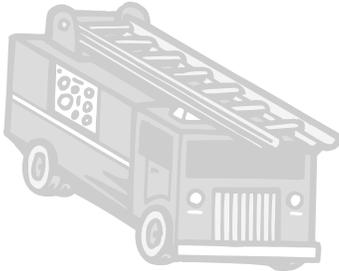
Please be safe and courteous on the roads. The life you save may be your own.

Your Superior Township Roads Committee



Our Superior Fire Department

Fire Chief J. Roberts



"It will be red in color with white lettering that will leave no doubt who the truck belongs to."

There is a lot of excitement in our department about the new fire apparatus scheduled for delivery by the end of this month. We have been involved in this process for nearly one year and will soon have it in service. The process involved in purchasing such a vehicle is long and arduous and I would like to take this opportunity to further explain.

It begins with the department specifications on what the apparatus will be used for and Captain Dave Judson has worked with American LaFrance, the manufacturer, in the design of this vehicle from the beginning. This is the same company that we purchased our ladder truck from in 2000. Department personnel have traveled to South Carolina on three separate occasions to perform pre-construction, before paint and final acceptance tests on the tanker. It will be red in color with white lettering that will leave no doubt who the truck belongs to.

Our apparatus will carry a total of six firefighters, 2500 gallons of water

and has a 1500 gpm pump. On board will be state of the art equipment consisting of a new restraint system for fire fighter safety involving lap and shoulder belts, an ABS braking system to help stop this 66,000 pound vehicle and in-cab communications equipment. This will allow better communications between the driver and officer while responding and at the same time, provide hearing protection inside these sometimes very noisy, apparatus.

This vehicle will be replacing our 1980 tanker that we currently have and be used to provide service to our areas of the township that does not have hydrants. The current tanker has already been sold and will be released when we take possession of our new apparatus.

You will be seeing the truck all over the Township over the next few weeks as there will be extensive classroom and over the road driver training before being placed into emergency service.

THE TOWNSHIP HAS PURCHASED THE LAND AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF PROSPECT AND CHERRY HILL
The Township Hall site surrounds a half acre of land at the corner of Prospect and Cherry Hill. The site has an older, small two-bedroom house on it and was

appraised at \$135,000. The owner was willing to sell at that price. Although we do not have immediate need of the property, future expansion of Township facilities can now be assured on the current site.

IT IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.

Our Superior Wetlands

Brenda Baker, Wetlands Secretary

Did You Know?...

Healthy Wetlands Devour Mosquitoes

Concerns about mosquitoes are often raised in relation to wetlands, particularly in light of the West Nile virus issue the past few years. Contrary to popular belief, healthy, well-functioning wetlands can actually reduce mosquito populations.

Wetlands are transitional areas between water and land that are covered with shallow water or waterlogged soil. Healthy wetlands decrease mosquito populations in two ways. First, wetlands provide habitat for the natural enemies of mosquitoes. Second, functional wetlands prevent or reduce flooding in adjacent land areas that are normally dry.

Birds, fish, frogs, and other insects feed on mosquito larvae and adults. These natural predators keep the mosquito population low.

Dragonflies, damselflies, water striders, backswimmers, and predacious diving beetles are also natural enemies of mosquitoes. But these insects need proper habitat—healthy wetlands—to survive.

Mosquitoes become a problem in areas that have standing water yet do not support the beneficial animals that feed on mosquitoes. Rainfall collects in places such as old tires, cans, buckets, and other man-made containers. And because these types of places do *not* pro-

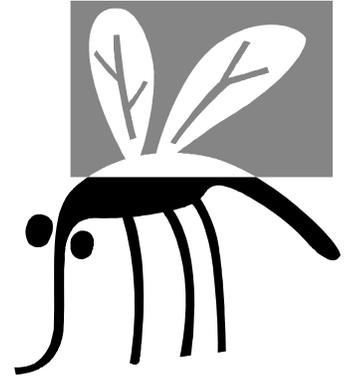
vide good homes for beneficial insects and other kinds of wildlife that feed on mosquitoes, the mosquitoes can quickly reproduce out of control.

Of the numerous species of mosquito in Michigan, the principal carrier of the West Nile virus is the common house mosquito, *Culex pipiens*. This species of mosquito does not prefer wetlands. Its natural habitat is tree holes that are often filled with water and organic matter. Any feature that replicates this natural habitat—such as rain-filled containers, empty flower pots, children's stagnant swimming pools, and abandoned tires—will likely provide habitat for this mosquito species. Other favored locations are leaf-clogged gutters and birdbaths. Such artificial containers lack the predators found in wetlands, and are located in or near urban areas, providing infected mosquitoes with easy access to human or animal hosts.

Most potential carriers of the West Nile virus are produced “locally,” because they can't fly more than ¼ mile from where they are hatched.

Superior Township residents can reduce the negative impacts of mosquitoes by eliminating standing water around our homes...and by promoting healthy wetlands in our Township!

[Portions of this article were excerpted from publications of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, University of Illinois Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Natural Resources/Purdue University, Macon County (IL) Conservation District.]



“Most potential carriers of the West Nile virus are produced “locally,” because they can't fly more than ¼ mile from where they are hatched.”

Supervisor (Continued from page 1)

ture cost for deputies and lack of direct oversight by the township. Superior Township and Ann Arbor Township have pursued using the deputies for collaboration to improve response time and reduce cost. Unfortunately, the Sheriff Administration has done little to help with the success towards this goal. Superior Township paid over \$100,000.00 for deputy patrol never received during 2006. Washtenaw County is now reimbursing the Township in 2007 for this service never received in 2006. While the local sergeant and deputies working the street are doing a good job, we continue to have issues with the Sheriff Administration.

Another opportunity for collaboration and success comes with a proposed non-motorized trail along Clark Road. Superior and Ypsilanti Townships are pursuing Federal and County grants to place a non-motorized

trail along Clark Road east towards Ridge Road from Prospect Road. This non-motorized trail will connect to existing MacArthur Trail. During difficult times it is the Government's responsibility to do more with less. Superior Township will use creativity and resourcefulness to accomplish that goal.

Superior Township Fire Chief Garvin Smith has now retired after many years of success. On behalf of the Township of Superior many thanks to him for all the years of great service. The new Chief is James Roberts who retired from the City of Ypsilanti. Chief Roberts is half time which will serve the Township well and save tax dollars. Losing a quality Chief such as Garvin Smith was not such a serious blow to the fire service because the new Chief is equally highly qualified.

Welcome aboard Chief Roberts.

(Continued from page 3)

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

◆ As you know, Summer Tax Bills will be mailed out July 1, 2007 and payable through September 15 without penalty. If you do not receive your summer tax bill, please contact my office at (734) 482-6099.

- ◆ In regards to escrow payments, if you recently refinanced your mortgage and now have a new tax-paying agent or no longer have an escrow, please contact my office to update our records.
- ◆ New homeowners, please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to receive the 100% homestead exemption.

Clerk (Continued from page 3)

Schoolcraft Community College – Elect 3 –

6-yr term - Mary Breen, Brian D. Broderick,
James G. Fausone, Joan A. Gebhardt,

Ron Randall

Precincts 1 & 5 vote at the Township Hall, Precincts 2 &

4 vote at Cheney Academy, Precinct 3 votes at the Fire Substation.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Register and vote!



News from our Superior Fire Department

Fire Chief James Roberts has been hired by Superior Township and began his new career as our Fire Chief on February 1, 2007. Chief Roberts replaces former Fire Chief Garvin Smith who officially retired March 2, 2007 after fifty years of service to our community.

Chief Roberts retired after nearly 38 years of service with the City of Ypsilanti Fire Department and was a Firefighter, Lieutenant Inspector, Fire Marshal and Building Official. He was appointed Fire Chief in March 1987, serving in this position for twenty-one years.

He is a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University Fire Staff and Command School and has taught fire science classes at Washtenaw Community College, Wayne County Community College, Jackson Community College and Eastern Michigan University. He is the Chair of the Washtenaw County Hazardous Materials Response Authority, Chair of the Washtenaw County Fire Central Dispatch Committee and Vice-Chair of the Washtenaw County Homeland Security Task Force.

Chief Roberts has served on the Ypsilanti Area Federal Credit Union for nearly ten years and is Vice-Chair of that organization.



Born in the old Willow Run Village complex, he is a graduate of Willow Run High School and was honored in 2004 by being selected for the Willow Run High School Hall of Fame Award for his accomplishments and service to his country and this community. He served in the U. S. Army from 1965-1968, attaining the rank of Sergeant E-5 and is a Vietnam veteran. Chief Roberts is married to his wife, Bonnie and has two children.



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