

Volume 9 Issue 1

April, 2009

Superior Scenes

Superior Township Board of Trustees

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Brenda McKinney	Treasurer
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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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education@superior-twp.org

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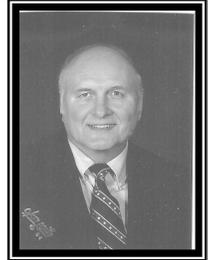
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3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

I am happy to say the Superior Township Government financial picture is very good. Because of the positive fund balances in all funds that were saved during the good years, your Township Board will propose to lower the millages but not reduce service. The millages paid for Township Government are just a fraction of the millages paid; most of the taxes go to the schools. The lower millages will be mostly symbolic. The Headlee Roll Back only occurs when the community has growth. Our Township in fact did not have growth for 2008. The current voted fire millage is 3. mills. I will propose rolling it back further to approximately 2.90 mills. The voted police millage is 2.25 mills. I will propose rolling it back to 2.15 mills. Washtenaw County has proposed a two percent increase for 2010 for the Deputy cost. The Superior Township Police millage was based on a higher estimated cost. Therefore, for the 2010 year we can pass on the savings. Expanding re-

gional cooperation with neighbors also increases service at lower cost. The Township Board feels putting more money in your pocket during these difficult times is best for the economy. The opportunity to



**William McFarlane,
Supervisor**

increase service at lower cost by regional cooperation will be investigated and implemented. It's a win, win for everyone.

The Township General fund is also looking at ways to cut cost via attrition and cross training all staff. The Utility Department will again be open for business ten hours five days a week throughout the summer months. The Township Board will only have one Board meeting a month from May through August. While cutting cost is good, providing less service is not. The 2008

Continued on page 4

Superior news you can use

A group called Committee to Promote Superior Township with the specific aim of fostering unity, pride and a sense of place among it's residents, meets bi-monthly at Superior Township Hall on the first and third Wednesday at 7 PM-8:15 PM, all residents are encouraged to attend. There's something about Superior Township that people like, but we want to make sure

that everyone knows what's great about Superior Township," committee member Rhonda McGill said.

"We don't want people just to live here, we want people to explore here," McGill said.

Besides promoting the township to current residents prospective residents can learn what makes our Township Superior!

News from our Superior Clerk

The November 2008 Presidential Election resulted in a record voter turnout in Superior Township. The Township processed a total of 7,109 votes, 2,069 of these were Absent Voter Ballots. Voter turnout was a respectful 72.68%. In the November 2004 Presidential Election the Township processed 6,278 total ballots, of which 1,180 were Absent Voter Ballots. Total registered voters increased from 8,658 in 2004 to 9,781 in 2008.

On Tuesday May 5, 2009, there will be a school election to elect board members for the Ann Arbor, Willow Run and Ypsilanti school districts. If you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are 60 years of age or older, or disabled, you may apply for an Absent Voter Ballot. You may use a pre-printed form or send a letter requesting the AV Ballot. The law states you must: (1) give the reason for needing the Absent Voter Ballot, (2) state where you want the ballot sent, (3) sign the request (must be an original signature, and (4) date the request. Forward the request to David Phillips, Superior Township Clerk, 3040 North Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Or, come into the Township Hall prior to the election, fill out the application and pick up an AV Ballot at the same time. AV Ballots are available until 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding the election (May 2, 2009). The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Saturday, May 2, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact me, David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: david-phillips@superior-twp.com.

The Township's website, www.superior-twp.org, contains information on voting, Township departments, meetings, community information, as well as information on programs available through other government agencies. I would encourage you to visit the Township website. It contains a wealth of information about our Township.



**David Phillips,
Clerk**

I am the Board of Trustees' representative to the Planning Commission. In January 2009, we started the process to review and revise the Township's Growth Management Plan. The Growth Management Plan serves as a guide for use by Township officials, property owners, developers and the public on how the Township is expected to develop. It addresses improvements in roads, water and sewer availability, protection of open space and natural resources, and delineates which areas are suitable for the various types of development contained in the Township's Zoning Ordinance. It is a comprehensive and thorough document. The current Growth Management Plan was adopted in 2004. State law requires Townships to review their Growth Management Plan or Master Plan at least every five years. The Planning Commission will be completing their review of the document at their meetings, which are held the fourth Wednesday of every month. Our residents and other members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and provide comment. You can also forward any comments, questions or concerns to me.

Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

This is John Hudson, Township coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. If you have concerns or questions about crime in the Township and would like to receive Neighborhood Watch information by email, including monthly crime reports and alerts, contact Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net. Our alerts include copies of monthly crime reports, up to the minute alerts received from the Sheriff's Department and information received from citizens. Neighborhood Watch meets bimonthly. A deputy sheriff is usually in attendance and available to answer your questions. We often have guest speakers from Government and Law enforcement agencies.

Meetings are open to all and are usually held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday every other month depending on the calendar. The

next meeting will be on May 26th at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, across from the Township Hall. The meeting schedule is posted on the Township website. Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of community enforcement and relies on community awareness and communication... We welcome new members from all areas of the Township.

There are several ways to become involved. Becoming part of the email alert list will ensure that you receive updates on crime and meetings. Attending meetings presents an opportunity to discuss police matters directly with Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputies. Hope to see you on May 26th.

John Hudson

Coordinator, Superior Township

Cell Phone: 734- 657-4001

Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net

News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney



**Our Treasurer
Brenda L. McKinney**

One Superior Place - Green Fair

Please join us for a celebration of some of the things that make Superior Township a green community and One Superior Place.

On Saturday, May 30, 2009, Superior Township Parks Dept., Superior Land Preservation Society, Ypsilanti District Library, Ypsilanti Growing Hope, Washtenaw County, OHM, Hyundai, Republic Waste, Absopure Water & (ETCS) will join the Committee to Promote Superior Township in presenting the Township's first Green Fair. (LET'S HELP SAVE OUR PLANET) - Rain date June 6, 2009.

Attractions Will Include

- Hotdogs and Absopure water refreshments
- Games
- Book give-aways
- Walk along the Clark Rd. - MacArthur Blvd. trail
- Maps and information about parks and nature preserves
- Demonstrations of why it's smart to recycle, reuse and reduce waste, ETCS Jobs Fair & Housing Info
- Growing Hope program information
- Superior Township Fire Dept., Sheriff Dept. , Neighborhood Watch, and Utility Department Dept.

The fair will be held at the Superior Township Library, 8975 MacArthur Blvd. at Harris and run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To participate in the walk, please meet at the Utilities Admin. Building, 575 E. Clark Rd. at 10:30 a.m. and fair begins 11:30

For more information, contact Brenda McKinney, Treasurer

734-482-6099

All is free....All are welcome!

(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

Road Budget for the Township allocated \$206,248.00 for contracted road improvements with the Road Commission. The 2009 adopted budget calls for \$220,000.00 in Road projects. Superior Township continues to be the Township of choice for new home construction. In 2007 and 2008 Superior Township had more new home construction permits than any other community in Washtenaw County. The 2009 building season as of March already has ten new home permits in Superior Township.

One of our Township residents who lives on Berry Road proudly told me how she picks up trash along her portion of the road. She indicated this provided her with exercise and a quality of life she desired by keeping her portion of the world clean. I plan on doing the same to my road. I am asking all residents to adopt a portion of your road and clean it up.

The Township has contracted for illegally dumped items in road right of way to be picked up such as chairs, computers etc. I have requested the Sheriff Department work release people to pick up the main roads.

The Ann Arbor News will no longer be publishing after July. The Ann Arbor News provided daily news and information including crime reports that helped citizens keep informed. The Township Neighborhood Watch is providing an E-Mail alert on crime in all the areas within the Township which may off set the lack of printed news somewhat. If you would like to be on the list, E-mail John Hudson the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at jhudson300606mi@comcast.net. The Township has requested that crime information be provided to pass on to our residents via our e-mail alert system. The Township provides information to help keep our residents informed. Let us know what you think. We welcome all comments. We can't fix it unless we know it's broken.

Our Superior Wetlands

Deborah Kuehn

Superior Township works hard to protect over 1,000 acres of existing wetlands within the township. Recently, that responsibility grew with the creation of two new wetlands. The new wetlands were required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to replace wetlands lost through development in other communities.

The first wetland is 6 acres at the southeast corner of Prospect and Vreeland roads. It includes a wet meadow, open water and a forested wetland. It was created to replace wetlands lost from a development in Canton Township. The second wetland is at the northwest corner of Prospect and Vreeland roads and is still under construction. It includes 24 acres of forested, scrub and emergent wetlands and 6 acres of open water. It is replacing wetlands lost in an Oakland County development.

Wetlands are a valuable natural resource. They provide storage for rainwater and snowmelt. Some provide a

groundwater recharge function. Others help filter pollutants from storm water and serve as wildlife nurseries and habitats. Wetlands have also become important amenities for those who like the natural view and the wildlife which live or visit there.

The addition of these new wetlands will certainly enhance the natural character of Superior Township. This is especially true for the area along Prospect Road which is becoming known throughout Washtenaw County as the "Superior Greenway."



County Sheriff Aids Residents

Planning on leaving on a vacation and are concerned about the safety of your home? The Washtenaw County Sheriff Department has a program where you can leave your home

and feel safe knowing that your property is on their watch list. You may call 734-973-4911 and ask or go to the webpage <http://ewashtenaw.org/government/sheriff>, click the 911Central dispatch link, where you will find the House Watch form to complete. Enjoy that vacation!

Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

SEASONAL EXTENDED HOURS STARTING IN MAY!

Beginning Monday, May 4th and running through Friday, October 30th, we are pleased to announce that we will be open additional hours every day (Mondays through Fridays).

- ◆ We will be able to accept payments and inquiries through our drive-through window from 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- ◆ The office will be open for telephone inquiries and for scheduling appointments over the phone from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the department's hours and where are you located?

We are located at the northeast corner of Prospect & Clark Roads.

We have a payment drop box (located on the east side of the building) that is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, for water bill payments being made by check or money order.

Our current hours are, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the office and 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. for making payments through our drive through window.

Beginning May 4th, our seasonal extended hours will begin and will run through October 30th. During this period, cash, check or money order payments can be received at our drive through window, weekdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please feel free to give us a call (734-480-5500) or check our web site (www.superior-twp.org) for additional information regarding our hours.

What are my payment options?

If making a payment through our drop box, by mail or in person, we can only accept payments by check, money order or cash.

Credit card and bank account payments (checking and savings accounts) can be made online by going to the Township's website (www.superior-twp.org), then:

Click on: [Departments](#), then

Click on: [Utilities](#), then

Click on: [Online Bill Payments](#)

What do I need to do if I plan to move?

If you are moving, please contact the Utility Department at least 24 hours prior to your move date to arrange for a final meter reading, so that you will not be charged for water used after you have moved.

What do I need to do if I am new to the Township?

If you have just moved in to the Township, contact us at 734-480-5500 so that we have all the necessary information to set up a new account for you.

What do I do if have water coming up through the floor drain in my basement?

If you have water coming up through your basement floor drain, it may be an indication that there is a sewer back-up in front of your house. Call us anytime, day or night, seven days a week, at 734-480-5500 and we will check our sewer line for blockages. We will then let you know if the problem is in our line, which we will take care of, or if it is a blockage within your house line, which you will need to contact a plumber or repair service to address.

SAVING ON SPRING/SUMMER WATERING COSTS

If you are planning on laying sod and/or planting new landscaping, 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/sewer bills by up to as much as one third. Contact us at 734-480-5500 for additional information on sprinkler meters.



(ETCS) in Washtenaw County

ETCS is a multi-service organization that strives to bridge the activities between community economic development and workforce development. We are a unique government department that recognizes the important role community action and workforce development play in improving the quality of life and personal economic stability of Washtenaw County residents. We are a part of the Michigan Works! System and an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program that is supported by the State of Michigan.

Washtenaw County Employment Training and Community Services Department (ETCS)

Offers the following list of services:

Employer & Corporate Services

- Register as an employer on the Michigan Talent Bank system to post you “Help Wanted” ads free of charge.
- Use the Job Scout feature to find workers with the right skill sets
- Review resumes of job seekers already in the system and connect to them directly.
- Prescreen and assess potential hires
- Use our facilities for interviews
- Participate in bi-weekly job fairs where employers can recruit and interview prospective employees.

Job Seeker Services

- Video Library with a wide selection of educational videos to assist with your job search.
- Employment Applications available onsite for many local employers.
- Career Counseling Services and Seminars
- Access to computers, telephones, copy machine, and fax
- Job Fit surveying to help job seekers phone in on their talents
- Virtual Video Interviewing
- Veterans Services
- Assistance writing resumes
- Professional development
- Washtenaw Community College Harriet Campus located on-site
- Assistive Technology: Dragon Naturally Speaking (alternative to keyboard and mouse), Zoom Text (magnification for visually impaired), Jaws (screen reader for blind), Personal FM (for hearing impaired), and computer stations with wheelchair accommodations

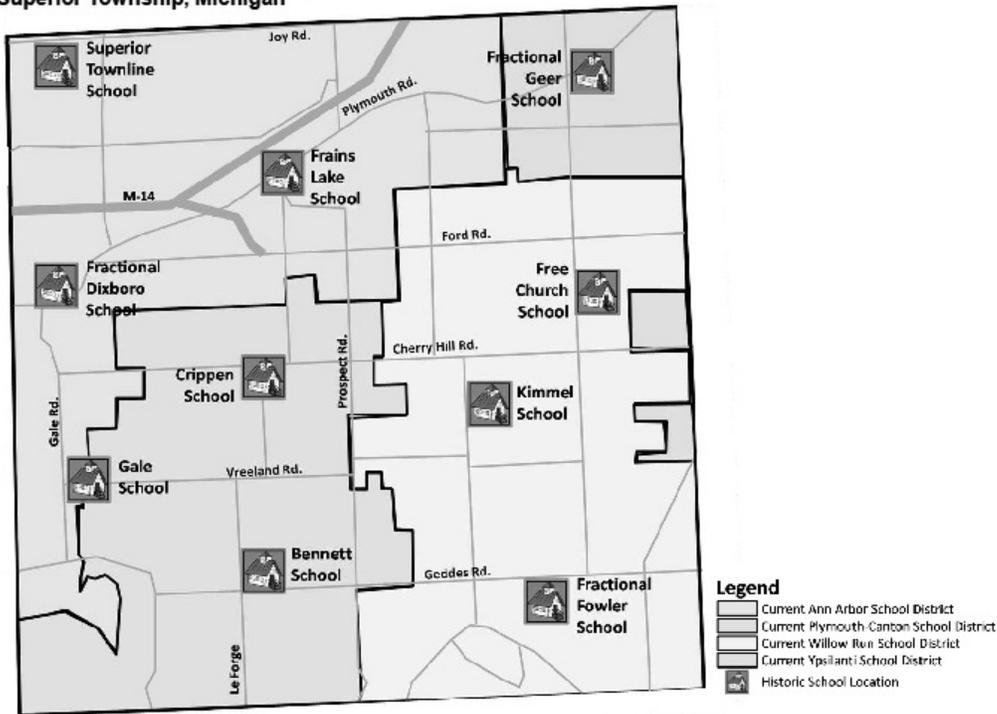
Community Services

- Senior Nutrition: Home delivered meals, Meals in community settings
- Emergency Services: Assistance with food, clothing, temporary housing, or utility payments
- Foster Grandparents: Older adults can volunteer to work one on one, with children that have special needs.
- Home Weatherization: County residents who meet annual household income guidelines may receive help in the installation of energy saving materials. The program also covers small repairs to doors and windows. Major improvements such as furnaces and roof replacements are made when funding permits.
- Tax Preparation Assistance: Low-income county residents may receive tax preparation assistance from IRS trained and supervised volunteers.
- Connection to several partner agencies for additional assistance and resources.
- Temporary Food Assistance Program: Distribution of food products to local food pantries.
- Summer Food Program: serves free lunch to youth when school is not in session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit us on the Washtenaw County public website at www.etcs.ewashtenaw.org or contact our administrative office at 734-544-3053.

**In the Beginning: The School Districts
Superior Township, Michigan**



One Superior Place

By Our Superior Resident Betty Meyer

The first school house in Superior Township was built in 1825, six years before the Township was established. Over the next 100 years, 10 schoolhouses were built, each representing its own school district. The size of a school district depended upon land ownership and family size. Eventually, each of the districts was absorbed by one of the present-day school district.

The following is a short description of two of the early school districts in Superior Township.

The Dixboro School was located in Section 7 on Plymouth Rd. It was the first school dating back to the purchase of a large tract of land by Captain Dix in 1826. He had the land platted into 64 lots of record with a reserve of land 16 rods by 8 rods for a public square. The public square was the site for the school which is still standing. In 1952 after a spirited discussion by Dixboro residents, a 42 home development was approved. With the increase in residents came the need for a larger school. The new school was built on Dixboro Lane in between 1953 and 1958 on 40 acres and was named the Glenn Freeman School. However, the entire Dixboro district was annexed to Ann Arbor schools in 1958.

The Crippen School was built on Stommel Rd. in 1828. It was a small log building on a earth stone base. The ground under the school was a very attractive place for skunks. Because boys will

be boys, the students thought it would be fun to try and chase what they thought were “kitties” out from under the school. To say the least it was not the teacher’s idea of show and tell! The only cure for the odor was to burn the old school down and build the new one at the end of Stommel Rd. on Cherry Hill Rd. The Ira and Henry Crippen families donated .5 acres of land for the new school. The school district of 42 families was annexed to Ypsilanti district in 1961.

Notes from the Crippen School district treasurer’s book show that in 1910, teachers were paid \$32.00 per month and it cost \$471.47 annually to run the district. By 1935, the last entry in the treasurer’s book, teachers earned \$55.00 per month and the annual cost of running school was \$822.90.

For descriptions of the other districts, please visit *One Superior Place* on the Superior Township web site at www.superior-twp.org.



Our Superior Fire Department

Fire Chief J. Roberts



During the month of April 2008, Superior Township Fire Department elected to submit a grant proposal to the Assistance To Fire Fighters Grant Program. Fire fighters Don Sanford and Jeff French were assigned the task of writing the grant and it was decided to request assistance in purchasing 16 self contained breathing apparatus and a compressor capable of filling the air bottles. Fire fighters need this equipment whenever they enter a hazardous atmosphere thereby allowing them to breath from a good air supply. The decision was easy as our current breathing apparatus was outdated and in need of replacement. The total cost of this request amounted to \$126,700 and our township's match of five percent would be \$6,335 if we were awarded the grant.

On November 5, 2008, we were notified that we had been selected to receive our requested grant which allowing us to order the 16 air-packs and a Rapid Intervention Team Pack. We also ordered a compressor system capable of pressures up to 6000 p.s.i. that can fill our air bottles and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dive Team air bottles.

We received the air-pack shipment this last week and will have training on this new equipment and fit testing of the masks on May 1, 2009. Each fire fighter will be issued a mask fitted to their face so smoke cannot enter via an ineffective seal. It is expected the air-pack equipment will be placed into service not later than May 15, 2009. The compressor is on order and we expect shipment later this month.

We are so pleased to report that our department has new, state of the art equipment that will provide interoperability with neighboring departments and good service for the next fifteen years. The total cost for the township amounted to five percent of the actual value, (\$6,335) due to some extra work of two of our very best fire fighters.

The 2009 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program begins April 15, 2009 and we will again be submitting a request for equipment.

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