



April, 2014

# Superior Scenes

**3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

## From our Superior Supervisor . . .

**Superior Township Board of Trustees**  
**Kenneth Schwartz** Supervisor  
**David Phillips** Clerk  
**Brenda McKinney** Treasurer  
**Nancy Caviston** Trustee  
**Lisa Lewis** Trustee  
**Alex Williams** Trustee  
**Rodrck Green** Trustee

On the Web:

[www.superior-twp.org](http://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 Emergencoes

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 Emergencoes

Parks & Recreation

575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI

734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734-482-6099

education@superior-twp.org

I don't have to tell anyone that the winter of 2013-14 will go down in history as the snowiest and coldest on record in Michigan. The snow and bitter cold have caused many residents to complain about winter road maintenance, the potholes, the washboard gravel roads and the general condition of the streets and roads. During the heaviest snowstorms of the season, residents were rightfully concerned about the lack of timely snow removal on many of our (local) gravel and subdivision roads. Given the extreme conditions this winter, I authorized our utility trucks to clear snow in the subdivisions, especially in our many courts.

Many residents voiced concerns that their property taxes paid for winter maintenance and they were not getting their fair share of winter service. I soon realized that most resi-

dents didn't know that their property taxes don't pay for winter road maintenance, and don't know the details of the Michigan road funding formula.

The majority of road funding comes from federal and state sources. The state gas tax of 19 cents per gallon and the annual vehicle registration fee comprise the bulk of state road funding. It doesn't matter if gas is \$4.00 dollars a gallon or \$2.50 a gallon, the state only collects 19 cents per gallon for the roads. The per gallon tax and the registration fees are split 39% for MDOT, 39% for county road commissions and 22% for cities and villages. Townships do not receive any of the



**Kenneth Schwartz,**  
Supervisor

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## News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

**Spring/Summer/Fall Fun In Superior Township Parks!**

Mark your calendars! Your Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department is scheduling Saturday fun days for kids of all ages. Events will be held on 6 different Saturdays, each with a special theme. All events are free to the public and have fun activities with lunch or snacks.

- April 12, 11 a.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) – Easter Egg Hunt
- June 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire Dr.) – Superior Day

- June 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) – Kite & Rocket Day
  - July 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire Drive) - Kickball
  - August 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dixboro Green (Plymouth @ Cherry Hill) – Book Giveaway
  - October 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Norfolk Park (Norfolk Dr.) – Pumpkin Carving
- Please visit [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org) for further information. Hope to see you there!

## News from our Superior Clerk

Elections August 5 and November 4, 2014

There are two elections scheduled this year. On August 5, 2014 there will be a primary election. You will be required to confine your vote to a single party column. You cannot "split" your ticket. The winners of the primary election will advance to the November 4, 2014 general election. You will be allowed to "split" your ticket when voting in the November general election. You will be voting on candidates for U.S. Senate, the 12th Congressional District; the state-wide offices of Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State; State Senator, State Representative, Washtenaw County Commissioner, Precinct Delegates and Supervisor of Superior Township. The ballot of August 5, 2014 will include local proposals to renew Superior Township's millages for Law Enforcement and the Fire Department and a state-wide proposal to dedicate a portion of tax revenue to benefit metropolitan areas throughout the state. The ballot for the November 4, 2014 general election will include a proposal to overturn a law allowing the state to establish wolf hunting seasons in the Upper Peninsula. There are numerous other proposals that may be added to the ballot. The last day to register to vote is July 7, 2014 for the August 5, 2014 primary and October 6, 2014 for the November 4, 2014 general election. For further information on the elections please visit the following websites:

State of Michigan- [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)

Washtenaw County-

[www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk\\_register/elections](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections)

Superior Township - [www.superior-twp.org/voting/index](http://www.superior-twp.org/voting/index)

League of Women Voters- [www.lwvmi.org/votingInfo](http://www.lwvmi.org/votingInfo)



**David Phillips,  
Clerk**

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. Please 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. You must provide acceptable photo identification. AV Ballots are available until 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding the elections.

*Continued on page 4*

## Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Our Township Coordinator for Neighborhood Watch is John Hudson. 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](mailto:Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net). Our alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up-to-the-minute alerts received from the Sheriff's department and information received from citizens. Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of community enforcement and relies on community awareness, involvement and communication.

Neighborhood Watch meets bimonthly with representatives from the Washtenaw County Sheriff. A Sheriff's Department official is usually in attendance and available to answer your questions.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00 on the fourth Tuesday every other month depending on scheduling of the meeting space. The next meeting will be on May 27th at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Road, across the parking lot from the Township Hall. JOIN US!



## News from our Superior Treasurer



**Brenda L. McKinney,  
Treasurer**

### Treasurer's Mission Statement:

The Superior Township Treasurer is committed "to provide prompt, courteous, and efficient service to the public." The Treasurer is committed to handling public funds with the highest degree of integrity and accountability.

The total property tax billed for 2013 was estimated at \$20,682,418. The estimated total amount of property tax collected for 2013 was \$19,917,543 from 6,180 parcels. An estimated 395 parcels of property went delinquent. The total amount of estimated delinquent property tax was \$764,874. Superior Township collected 97% of estimated taxes billed.

### What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- As you know, 2013 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended February 28, 2014. Beginning March 1, 2014, all delinquent 2013 property taxes are now payable to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. If you have any questions regarding your delinquent 2013 property taxes, please contact the Washtenaw County Treasurer at 734-222-6600.
- New homeowners, please make sure to complete and return your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit forms in order to receive the 100% homestead exemption on your property. Filing deadlines are June 1st to qualify for a summer PRE and November 1st to qualify for a winter PRE.
- Deferment Applications will be mailed June 1st. Please sign and return completed applications by

September 14th. Eligible persons are 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death, Paraplegic or Quadriplegic, Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower, Blind, or Totally and Permanently Disabled. Having a Deferment allows homeowners to pay taxes until April 30th without penalties or interest charges.

- I will accept partial payments in any dollar amount during property tax collection from July 1st - February 28th.
- The former Willow Run School district will continue to collect the school taxes on the summer property tax bill.
- Online property tax payments can be made at [www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org). Payments must be received online by September 1st for the summer property tax payments and February 1st for the winter property tax payments.

## Superior Greenway Nature Trail

Superior Township has become one of the premier greenbelt communities in southeast Michigan. A proposed new nature trail system on recently preserved property will enhance this claim and contribute to our recreational opportunities. In April 2012, the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program, the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy partnered to purchase and preserve 100 acres at the southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads, which is across from the Superior Township Hall. The property was named the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve. Mr. Smiley is a Superior Township resident who has been instrumental in the preservation of many properties in Superior Township and southeast Michigan.

This spring, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), plans to begin construction of the first phase of the Superior Greenway Nature Trail. Hikers will be able to park at the Township Hall, cross Cherry Hill Road and begin the trail through the Smiley Preserve, which will end at the SMLC farm property. Phase 1 should be completed and ready for use by the end of this summer. Phase 2 of the trail will include connections to existing trails in the LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve that will continue all the way to Geddes Road.

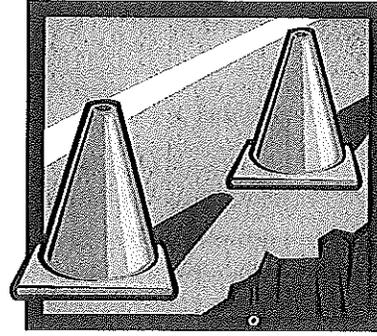
*(Continued from page 1) Superior Supervisor*

Michigan Fuel Tax or the Vehicle Registration Fees directly. The current tax and the distribution formula has been state law since 1997; and despite our Governor's best efforts to reform this law, nothing has changed.

Even though Superior Township receives no direct annual road funding from the state, Superior Township has continuously contributed to road improvements from our general fund for many years. Without local funding for improvements by Superior Township our local roads would be nearly impassable.

In 2013 Superior Township spent \$278,815.21 on improving local roads. Prior efforts for many years have stemmed the further deteriorating of our roads, but without additional funding we can't repair, replace and maintain our roads in a condition that is reasonably calculated to improve safety and increase the value of our homes and businesses. That's why Superior Township residents must band together and fix our roads until Lansing makes the necessary fundamental changes.

This May, I'm going to roll out for your review a plan to fix the local roads. This plan intends to improve drainage, grading and dust control on the gravel roads, and to repair, replace and seal our subdivision roads. The Washtenaw County Road Commission estimates that to correct all local roads in Superior Township to a very good level will cost \$2,386,500 in 2014 dollars.



Now for the easy part, I will be proposing to repeal our antiquated 1979 snow alert ordinance and to update our procedures to implement snow emergencies so vehicles can be timely removed from streets prior to snow plowing.

On the ballot this August will be millage renewals for police and fire protection. I requested our Board of Trustees not to renew the legal defense fund millage. The Board agreed. The legal defense fund has over \$232,000.00 in the bank right now and will have around \$300,000.00 by the end of 2014. With current funding we can defend our zoning and master plan for many years to come. Instead of collecting additional money for zoning defense, I'm asking you to seriously consider putting this money towards our roads. If you have any input or insight on our roads, I'd like to hear from you right now. Please feel free to call me at the Township Hall at 482-6099.

## Ypsilanti District Library

Mary Garboden

YDL-Superior is happy to announce the addition of a drop-in tutoring service, geared for students in grades K-8. Students can work with a volunteer tutor to get help on their homework. This service runs every Monday from 4-6 pm. The current session runs through April 28.

Contact Ypsilanti District Library for additional details at (734) 482-4110, ext. 1316. Call today!

Join us for learning at your own pace and get the help you need to be successful.

Superior Township Branch Library hours: Monday, 12-8pm; Tuesday and Saturday, 10am -6pm; Wednesday and Thursday, 4pm-8pm. Closed Friday and Sunday.



*(Continued from page 2) Superior Clerk*

The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding each election, August 2, 2014 and November 1, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact me, David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #1014, or e-mail: davidphilips@superior-twp.org.

### ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Superior Township needs election workers for both the August and November elections! If you are interested in applying, please contact David Phillips.

# Our Superior Utilities

Keith Lockie

## Water Wise:

A small leak in your water system can be very costly. A quick way to check for leaks is to turn off all water using devices inside and outside. Locate your water meter (usually located in your basement, or if you do not have a basement, in your laundry room). If after turning off all water using devices, the dial on the meter is turning, you have a leak.

If you suspect an intermittent leak in your toilet, please call us at 734-480-5500, and we will send you Toilet Dye Strip Packets, which can be used to test for leaks.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What are the department's location, contact information and hours?
  - We are located at 575 E. Clark Rd. (@Prospect Rd.) & have a drop-box on the east side of building.
  - Phone: 734-480-5500, Fax: 734-484-4883, Email: utilitydept@superior-twp.org
  - Our drive-through summer hours (May 5 through Oct. 3) are 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
  - Office summer hours (May 5 through Oct. 3) are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
  - Home appointments can be scheduled (May 5 through Oct. 3) between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. What are my payment options?
  - Payments made through our drop box or by mail can be by check or money order.

- Payments made in person can be by check, money order or cash.

- Credit card (MasterCard & Discover only) and bank account payments (checking and savings) can be made online by going to the Township's website ([www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)), then:

Click on: [Departments](#), then

Click on: [Utilities](#), then

Click on: [Online Bill Payments](#)

3. What do I need to do if I plan to move from my home or are am new to the Township?

If you are moving in or out of your home, 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 out, or prior to you moving in. Also, we will need your billing information at that time.

4. 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 any-time, day or night, seven days a week, at 734-480-5500 and we will check our sewer line for block-ages. We will then let you know if the problem is in our line, which we will take care of, or if it is a block-age within your house line, which you will need to contact a plumber or repair service to correct.



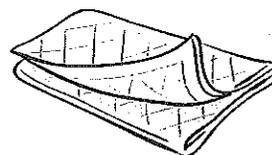
## 2013 Blanket Express and Food Drive

Brenda McKinney

Thank You for all of your support!

I would like to thank all of the Superior Township residents who supported and donated blankets and food for our drive. With all of your generous support, we were able to collect over 1000 blankets and four barrels of food. The food donations went to local churches. The

blankets went to various charities in our community. We will be participating again in December of 2014.



## One Superior Place

Committee to Promote Superior Township

The Committee to Promote Superior Township continues, in keeping with our mission statement, "to foster pride, unity and a sense of place among Superior Township residents." Our unique and diverse Township includes a wide range of "Superior Places" that help make it special to our residents and visitors. Check them out to discover the wonderful place where we live! See "One Superior Place" on the Township website, and click on "Superior Places." Alternatively, a notebook of these place descriptions is conveniently placed for you in the Township Hall lobby. These Superior Places, as well as other items of local interest, are also featured monthly on our Superior Township bulletin board in the Township branch library.

To involve Township residents in community activities, we hope to sponsor a blood drive later this year. This would be an opportunity for our residents to help themselves, their neighbors and the general public as well, and to help the ongoing need for blood supplies.

One option would be to designate your blood for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital—right here in our Township. [Potential donors are encouraged to contact Deborah Kuehn at Township Hall; we need 45 interested adults for Red Cross to come here.]

Our committee is also currently exploring the possibility of a Superior Township classic car display: of, by and for Superior Township residents. We are seeking local residents who own a classic automobile and would like to display it to friends and neighbors. We ask them to contact us and let us know your interest. We welcome all enthusiasts and would be pleased to receive your thoughts and organizational suggestions.

Our group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, at the Township Hall. We invite you to get involved. All are welcome. As in years past, we will have a presence at the 2014 Superior Day (previously known as the Superior Township Green Fair). Please stop by and see us there!

Please contact Superior Township Hall for additional information, or to be put in contact with a C2PST representative.

## Superior Fire Grant

**ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP AND SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP APPLY FOR FIRE GRANT**

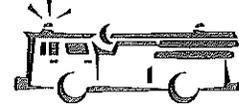
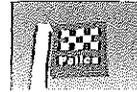
Appointing a new Fire Chief isn't the only change for the fire service. (see article on page 8) Both Ann Arbor and Superior Townships have applied to the State of Michigan for a grant through the Competitive Grant Assistance Program (CGAP). The purpose of the grant is to study ways in which the two township fire departments can improve collaboration and enhance fire and emergency response in both townships. The study will be under the direction of working groups composed of elected officials, fire specialists and the fire fighters. We expect to completely review our fire operations, including joint purchasing, training, and equipment acquisition in order to provide a greater level of service in a more cost efficient manner.

As most residents already know, Superior Township and Ann Arbor Township have a long positive history of police and fire services collaboration for many years. Leadership in both communities agreed that it's worth the effort to evaluate joint operation of the two fire departments under one Fire Chief. Both communities executed agreements to formalize

joint operations of the two fire departments under a unified command structure. The agreements are not to exceed 18 months and both departments will continue to operate as separate township departments under their existing funding arrangements. The application to the Michigan Department of Treasury requested \$49,075 to offset the costs of the study. The agreements were approved by both Superior Township's and Ann Arbor Township's Board of Trustees. Good luck to both fire departments as they establish a new and higher standard of municipal cooperation.



# Millage Renewals



## LOCAL PROPOSALS ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 PRIMARY BALLOT TO RENEW THE MILLAGES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the August 5, 2014 primary election, Superior Township voters will be voting on two important local ballot proposals.

### Renew the 2.25 mills for Law Enforcement

The Township contracts with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department for police service. All revenue from the Law Enforcement millage is paid to the Sheriff's Department for 24-hour/seven-day-a-week police coverage they provide for our Township. This includes the cost of all vehicles and other equipment, supervisory staff, use of the detective bureau and other core services from the Sheriff's Department. The Township currently contracts for 10 Sheriff's Deputies. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Sycamore Meadows Apartments and Danbury Green Apartments contribute additional funds towards the cost of these contract deputies. In 2013, the Township

spent a total of \$1,640,000 for Law Enforcement. The annual cost of this millage for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 is \$225.00

### Renew the 3.00 mills for the Fire Department

The Township employs nine Fire Fighters, a Fire Marshall and a Fire Chief. The Township's two fire stations, 7999 Ford Road and 8795 MacArthur Boulevard, are staffed 24 hours/seven days a week with up-to-date fire engines and other equipment. The Township has several automatic mutual aid and regular mutual aid agreements to supplement staffing when necessary. The Township is also engaged in a pilot study program with Ann Arbor Township to investigate and evaluate ways for the two fire departments to collaborate to improve the service, efficiency and cost effectiveness of both departments. In 2013, the Township spent a total of \$1,734,000 for the Fire Department. The annual cost of this millage for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 is \$300.00.

# Successful Regional Clean-up

The 6th annual regional clean-up day at the EMU Ryneerson Football Stadium parking lot was the most successful in the history of this program. On October 26th, 2013, the Washtenaw County Department of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Division, organized a regional clean-up day for the citizens of Washtenaw County. Superior Township, along with EMU and Ann Arbor City, worked with Washtenaw County to enable this successful effort to collect materials which are recyclable or banned from landfills.

Traditional recyclable materials collected included paper, glass, plastic and cardboard. In addition electronic waste,

such as computers, monitors, cell-phones and printers, was also collected. Materials that are banned from landfills but collected during this event included Freon-containing appliances, tires, motor oil, and household hazardous materials. Household hazardous materials include cleaning supplies, pesticides, fertilizers, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermometers and medical sharps.

More than 1000 vehicles dropped off material between 9:00 and 2:00 on October 26th, 2013. These participants brought 141 Freon-containing appliances, almost 4 tons of scrap steel, almost 19 tons of electronic waste, and over 20 tons of household hazardous waste.

As always, the event is free to residents of Washtenaw County; donations were accepted at the gate to help defray the cost to the county to properly process the material received.

# Superior Wetlands Board

Mark your calendars for May 17<sup>th</sup>, when we'll have some great volunteer opportunities in the Township. This year, the Friends of the Rouge will be holding their annual Rouge Rescue event with cleanup and stewardship opportunities throughout the entire Rouge River watershed, including two sites here in Superior Township. This year's Superior Township events will include a site maintenance and garlic

mustard removal event at the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve, and a debris removal/clean-up event along portions of the Bazley-Foster Drain near Fowler Creek. Both events will run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. There is room for as many volunteers as we can muster, and groups are certainly welcome to volunteer. For more details, please feel free to contact Jim McIntyre at [mcintyre12@comcast.net](mailto:mcintyre12@comcast.net), or visit [www.the-rouge.org/index/events](http://www.the-rouge.org/index/events).

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## Our Township is Superior!

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kenschwartz@superior-twp.org  
davidphillips@superior-twp.org  
brendamcklnney@superior-twp.org



This is printed  
on recycled  
paper.

## Our Superior Fire Department

Ken Schwartz, Supervisor



### Township Appoints Fire Chief Brian Thurston.

We have the good fortune to report that the Superior Township Board of Trustees appointed Ann Arbor Township Fire Chief, Brian Thurston, as the new Superior Township Fire Chief effective March 1st. Chief Thurston will have the unique and challenging role of being Fire Chief in both Townships.

Chief Thurston has served as a Fire Fighter for more than 37 years. He started out as a volunteer with the Brighton Fire Department, and then served with the City of Jackson Fire Department, where he achieved the rank of Assistant Chief, in charge of Training and Education. Upon retiring from the Jackson Fire Department, he served two years as the Fire Chief and Public Safety Director for Leoni Township in Jackson County before being hired as the Fire Chief for Ann Arbor Township in July 2013. Chief Thurston has extensive certifications and accomplishments in the fire service, which include: graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, FEMA, Fire Officer 3 and Fire Service Instructor

for the State of Michigan among his many other certifications. Brian will be stepping into the shoes of Fire Marshal Wayne Dickinson, who has served with distinction as the interim Chief for Superior Township since the retirement of former Fire Chief James Roberts. We welcome Chief Thurston aboard and thank Chief Dickinson for an outstanding job these past five months. Fortunately, Wayne will remain with Superior Township in his role as Superior Township Fire Marshal.



**Chief Thurston**