



April, 2016

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Superior Twp, 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
734-482-6099

734-482-3842 Fax

Water & Sewer Services

575 E. Clark Road, Superior Twp, 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
Superior Twp, 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 Road, Superior Twp, MI
734-480-5502

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 N. Prospect Road

Superior Twp, MI 48198

734-482-6099

education@superior-twp.org

As I've stated in the past, my philosophy is to ensure that basic services such as police, fire and garbage collection are provided at reasonable costs, but also to direct our efforts strategically to make conditions favorable for increased housing values and a higher quality of life for all residents—so here's some recent data that's pertinent to your comfort, value and safety:

Superior Township is approaching a population of 14,000 residents with over 4,100 single-family homes. Since 2013, housing values in Superior Township have consistently outperformed the growth of almost every other community in southeast Michigan. From January to June of 2015, Superior Township led all townships in the region in residential housing added value. Currently, there are strong home sales in the Prospect Pointe, Prospect Pointe East and Woodlands of Geddes Glen subdivisions.

In 2015 the Superior Township Building Department issued 68 single-family home building permits. Out of the 68 building permits, 52 were in the water and sewer district. This equates to an added value of

\$21,255,889.00 to the

housing stock and additional revenue for the water and sewer maintenance, replacement and repair funds. After equalizing the tax assessments and calculating the Headlee rollback, the township's total tax value increased by \$18,468,984.00 (tentative) in 2015. So, the numbers tell us that housing values in Superior Township are strong and that this is a great time for families to invest.



Kenneth Schwartz,
Supervisor

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News from our Superior Parks

Juan Bradford

Happy Spring Superior Residents!

As your new Parks & Recreation Administrator, and with spring right around the corner, I would like to invite you all to get outside and enjoy one of our Superior parks or nature preserves. Offering everything from tennis courts, basketball courts, and baseball fields for the more active residents, to asphalt paths and wooded hiking/foot trails offering all types of scenic views for those residents wanting to just get out and enjoy the nature of our Superior Township, we have it all. And let's not forget the playgrounds! Oakbrook Park, Community Park, Norfolk Park, and

Harvest Moon Park all offer playground structures and other amenities for both the young and young at heart to enjoy. So grab your jacket, pack a lunch, and get outside!

Speaking of parks & playgrounds, I am happy to announce that Superior Township Parks & Recreation has been awarded a Building Healthy Communities grant from the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association (MParks). The Building Healthy Communities grant is a great opportunity to boost the overall health and fitness levels of our youth and adult residents.

Continued on page 6

News from our Superior Clerk

Voting Precincts 2 and 4 Moved From Cheney Academy

Precinct 2 Voters will vote at the Abundant Life Ministries Church located at 855 E. Clark Road (1/4 mile east of Prospect Road).

Precinct 4 Voters will vote at the Christian Love Fellowship Church located at 1601 Stamford Road (across Stamford Road and just east of Cheney Academy).

It's Easy and Convenient to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Voting by absentee ballot is easy and allows you to complete your ballot in the comfort of your home. Some of our voting precincts are getting smaller, the ballots and lines are getting longer and parking can be difficult. I would encourage you to vote by absentee ballot if you are eligible. Voters can contact the Clerk's Office to request an application for an absentee ballot or to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voters list. Once placed on the permanent AV list you will be mailed an application for an absentee ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote. In order to receive an absentee voter's ballot you must complete and return either a pre-printed form or submit a suitable written request and meet one of the following criteria:

- I am 60 years of age or older
- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day

- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in which I reside
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial



**David Phillips,
Clerk**

The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests during regular business hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday) and from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding each election. If you have any questions, please contact David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #1014, or e-mail: davidphillips@superior-twp.org.

Voter
Registration
Form



Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of assisting community law enforcement. It relies on community awareness, involvement and communication. It encourages residents to get to know each other, know their neighborhood and call the police when something looks suspicious. Our police do a very good job but we can help them to make our community even better. A well-functioning Neighborhood Watch program can reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our community.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00pm at the Old Town Hall on the fourth Tuesday of every odd-numbered month. (May 24, July 26, September 27 and November 22). A Sheriff's Department official is usually in attendance and available to answer your questions.

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. 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.



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.

Thank You for All Your Support!

I would like to thank all of the Superior Township residents who supported and donated blankets and food for the 2015 Blanket Express and Food Drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide warmth and nutrition to those in need. The blankets went to various charities in our community. The food donations went to local churches. We will be participating again in December of 2016.

Mobile Farm Stand

Superior Township, in partnership with Growing Hope, set up a Farm Stand this past year at the corner of Harris Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. This locally sourced fresh fruit and vegetable market took place on Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 in the early summer and fall months and was a great success. We hope to continue the Farm Stand for the coming year to support Growing Hope's commitment to "providing improved lives and communities through greater access to healthy foods."

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

Total property tax billed for 2015 was estimated at \$24,293,062. The estimated total amount of property tax collected for 2015 was \$23,602,017 from 6,202 parcels. An estimated 336 parcels of property went delinquent. The total amount of estimated delinquent property tax was \$691,045. Superior Township collected 97.16% of the estimated taxes billed.

As you know, the 2015 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended February 29, 2016. Beginning March 1, 2016, all delinquent 2015 real property taxes are now payable to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. Please contact the Washtenaw County Treasurer at 734-222-6600 with any questions.

New homeowners, please be sure to complete and return your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit forms in order to receive the 100% exemption from school operating taxes 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.

Partial payments in any dollar amount will be accepted during the property tax collection period from July 1st – February 28th; however, summer taxes unpaid by September 14th will be subject to a one percent per month interest fee. After February 28th, any unpaid taxes must be paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer with additional interest and penalty fees.

Cash payments in the exact amount are appreciated as the Treasurer's office has only a limited amount of cash on hand to make change for large bills. Thank you for your cooperation.

Online property tax payments can be made at www.superior-twp.org. Payments must be received online by September 2nd for the summer property tax payments and February 2nd for the winter property tax payments. The length of time required to receive the payment reports and bank confirmations of payment by the statutory due dates makes it necessary to adhere to these deadlines. Thank you for your understanding.

Homeowners who escrow their taxes should have their lender contact my office with their request for your tax bills and their correct mailing address. If you no longer escrow your taxes, please contact the Treasurer's office so your tax bill will be sent to you.



Elections 2016

David Phillips

On May 3, 2016, there will be a county-wide election to vote on a proposal by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District to increase taxes for special education by 1.5 mills for a period of 10 years, 2016 to 2026. All precincts in Superior Township will be open. A copy of the proposal can be found on the Township website, superior-twp.org/news/election_5_3_2016.doc.

On August 2, 2016, the State-wide Primary Election will be held to elect candidates for the various Federal, State, County

and Local offices and precinct delegates. There will probably be proposals also on the ballot.

On November 8, 2016, the State-wide General Election will be held to elect candidates to various Federal, State, County and Local offices. There will probably be proposals also on the ballot.

Both the August and November elections will be well attended and have long ballots. I would encourage voters who are eligible to vote absentee to do so.

Ypsilanti Library

Mary Garboden

What's Happening at the Ypsilanti District Library?

*At YDL-Superior, weekly drop-in tutoring for students grades K-8 continues through June 13. Tutoring runs from 4-6pm and covers all subjects. Saturday morning Storytime, is held at 10:30 weekly, are a wonderful way to introduce young children to the wonders of the library. Storytime will run through April 30 and begin again on May 21. On our website at ypsilibrary.org/eresources, be sure to check out the many eresources available to you as a YDL cardholder. Some of our most popular eresources include Tutor.com for homework help, Chilton Library for automotive repairs, Overdrive for e-books and e-audiobooks, and Mango for learning foreign languages.

*Be sure to venture over to the Whittaker library now through

May 25 to check out the newest traveling exhibit, Wild Land. This exhibit examines the work of English immigrant Thomas Cole, who revolutionized the field of American landscape painting. Visitors are invited to explore the concept of preservation and how societies come to value and live in balance with natural resources.

*With summer right around the corner, we have a lot in the works. We will plant the learning garden at the library, start signing readers up for Summer Reading, and, together with Superior Township, unveil two Little Free Libraries in Superior Township neighborhoods. Be on the lookout for more information about these summer programs and more!

Wetlands Events

Jim McIntyre

As the seasons change and warmer weather settles back into the area, many township residents turn their attention to the outdoors, engaging in activities and hobbies that bring them closer to nature and many of the amenities the township has to offer, especially the township's preserves and natural areas. Stewardship and maintenance of the parks, preserves, wetlands, and trails within the township is done largely by volunteers, and numerous resources are available to residents who are interested in helping to ensure that these resources remain available and accessible for everyone in the township.

Upcoming events include the Rouge Rescue, sponsored by Friends of the Rouge on May 21st at Kosch-Headwaters Preserve on North Prospect Rd., where invasive species management will be taking place. The Huron River Watershed Council will also be hosting several events in the spring and summer, including their River Roundup on April 16th and a river cleanup

event on August 15th. The addition of trails along the Superior Greenway will allow residents to fully access the recently dedicated Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve via a trail extending from Vreeland Road to the preserve entrance at Cherry Hill Road, giving residents several continuous miles of trails to hike, watch wildlife, or simply spend time away from the daily grind.

Stewardship and volunteer opportunities abound with many organizations within the township as well as nearby communities. To learn more about how you can help local organizations achieve their goals of providing outstanding natural spaces for our communities, visit the any of the websites listed below.

<https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/>, www.therouge.org, www.hrwc.org, and www.smlcland.org,

Our Superior Utilities

Keith Lockie

Department News:

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:

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 the building.
- Phone: 734-480-5500, Fax: 734-484-4883, Email: utilitydept@superior-twp.org
- Our drive-through summer hours (May 2 through Sept. 30) are 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Office summer hours (May 2 through Sept. 30) are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Home appointments can be scheduled (May 2 through Sept. 30) between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

What are my payment options?

- Payments being made through our drop box or by mail can be by check or money order (NO CASH PAYMENTS).

- 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), 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 from my home or 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.

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 correct.



Preservation Celebration

Brenda Baker

This year, 2016, marks "25 Years of Land Conservation in Superior Township," starting around the time that citizens and government began utilizing formal, legally recognized mechanisms for protecting undeveloped land in our township against future urban sprawl.

In recognition of this ongoing achievement and the numerous people and organizations that have played a part in it, a "Preservation Celebration" is planned for July 9 at Superior Township Hall (indoors and outdoors), with shuttles available to Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. The event will be hosted by

The Superior Township Chapter of Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, the Superior Land Preservation Society, and Superior Charter Township; and will run from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Speakers and displays from conservation-minded organizations and individuals will be featured, complemented by docent-led walks at the preserve. Planning details are still in progress, but make a note on your calendar and come on out and celebrate with us!



Say it with Pride

Committee to Promote Superior Township

Superior Township residents: Where do you live?

That sounds a little like the old trick question, Who is buried in Grant's tomb?—except that many residents answer Ann Arbor, Plymouth, or Ypsilanti—none of which is accurate.

Why do we identify with these other places, when we all know we live in Superior Township? We do that because of our mailing address, assigned by the U.S. Post Office decades ago according to which post office location handles our snail mail. In 1963, the U.S Postal Service introduced zip codes, a system that was so successful that it soon became difficult to get a piece of mail delivered without one, even before modern, automatic sorting equipment. Mail for each zip code is delivered out of a particular post office location.

Nowadays, we *do* have automated sorting equipment for our postal mail, and another major portion of our mail is electronic, having nothing to do with the post office at all. The fancy equipment looks, first and foremost, at the zip code—not the name of the town—to direct each piece of mail to its assigned post office for distribution. Once there, the street address becomes important.

This means that Superior Township residents can have their

postal mail sent to a Superior Township (or Dixboro) address, as long as the correct zip code is used. Try it! Whenever you provide your own address, list Superior Township as the city. Whenever that information is obtained from you, instead of some database tied to a zip code, your statement of where you live becomes the “truth.” For example, one of the members of the Committee to Promote Superior Township has Superior Township given as the city on her driver's license, because that's where she said she resides.

Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and Plymouth are fine communities in their own right, but Superior Township is a unique and truly special place like no other. We should all be proud to call it home.

Toward this end, the Committee to Promote Superior Township encourages all residents to tell the world you're from Superior Township. Tell that to others when they ask where you live, and enter it in the “City” field when you fill out a form.

(Continued on page 7)

Superior Park News

Juan Bradford

Parks, continued from page 1

With this grant we will be able to install a play structure and other amenities at Fireman's Park, which is located on the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Harris Rd. next to the Superior Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. The Building Healthy Communities grant will also enable us to start two exciting programs at Fireman's Park. For the youths we will be starting a program called “Come out and Play” that includes three 8-week sessions of activities, games and just plain fun. For the adults we will be implementing three 6-week “Walking with Ease” programs to help get residents up and outside, walking with friends and neighbors to boost overall health and stamina. The “Walking with Ease” program will follow the guidelines of the Arthritis Foundation and participants will receive a pedometer and booklet to track their progress as well as guided instruction from a staff member that has been trained in the “Walking with Ease” curriculum. Both of these programs will be entirely free to participate in.

If all that wasn't enough for you, let me remind you of all of the great special events we have planned for this year. We'll have all of your old favorites such as Superior Day - June 11th at Oakbrook Park, Kite & Rocket Building - July 16th at Fire-

man's Park, Dixboro Fair - August 6th at the Dixboro Village Green, Kickball - September 10th at Oakbrook Park, and Pumpkin Carving - October 15th at Norfolk Park. We are also planning two brand new events for this year. On Saturday, August 13th, get ready as the Kelly Miller Circus comes to town, sponsored by the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission. This one-ring circus is a true family event guaranteed to bring smiles and cheers to all. The circus will be held at Fireman's Park and tickets will be going on sale later this spring. The second new event we are planning for this year involves none other than Santa Claus himself. Join us on Saturday, December 3rd as Santa Claus comes to town to light the Township Tree next to Township Hall. This will be followed by caroling, hot chocolate, cookies, and of course a picture with Santa Claus.

If you would like additional information regarding any of the Parks & Recreation programs please visit the Superior Township website at www.superior-twp.org, or if you like you may either email me directly at superiorparks@superior-twp.org or call my office at (734) 480-5502.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A SUPERIOR DAY!

Supervisor, (Continued from page 1)

In 2016 you can expect to see the orange barrels cropping up around the township, including major improvements to Geddes (Prospect to LeForge), Plymouth (Curtis to Gotfredson) and Prospect (Clark to Ford) roads. We're still evaluating additional projects and expect to see significant work on the local road network. Stay tuned for specifics.

Gravel roads will continue to be evaluated and maintained on the basis of need. We expect to purchase over 4,000 tons of gravel this year and judiciously spread and grade wherever road conditions demonstrate the greatest need. This year will mark the completion of a three-year cycle to identify all gravel road segments so severely degraded and deficient that it results in dangerous roads. We will evaluate the results at the end of the year and next year, lay out a long-term plan for gravel road rehabilitation.

Last year the Township Board started a new effort to target the removal of large, dead trees along the major public roads. Working with DTE and other contractors, we removed many dead ash trees along Prospect and Geddes Roads where a clear public danger was present. You can expect to see additional dead tree removal throughout the township this year, but it's very expensive and only limited funds are available to remove trees deemed a hazard. This is technically a County Road Commission responsibility, but we cannot wait for a tragedy before removing obvious hazards.

It's abundantly clear from recent events that safe drinking water is a necessity. Water and sewer infrastructure must be inspected and maintained routinely for the protection of the public. In Superior Township, our most important public infrastructure is the water and sewer system. This infrastructure is more than a system of pipes, pumps and valves. It is a critical service that is a lifeline to its users.

As a Township Board of Trustees, it is our responsibility to provide safe drinking water on demand. Clean drinking water is highly dependent on its source. The source of Superior

Township's municipal water supply is Lake Huron. It is delivered to our area by the Great Lakes Water Authority. We do use wells, rivers or reservoirs for our supply.

To keep water sources clean, each municipality must pay close attention to the sewer collection system under its jurisdiction. We do not want sewer water flowing into the ground water or surface waters; and we do not want ground water flowing into our sewer system. In 2015 the Township Board applied for and received a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality stormwater asset management and wastewater grant in the amount of \$505,000.00. The grant funds are being used to perform sanitary sewer system inspections, to assess system conditions, to determine the condition of critical assets, to improve the geographic information system and to prepare an asset management plan.

Sewer system inspections began in July 2015 and were completed in December. The Township visually inspected over 500 sewer manholes and videotaped about 100,000 feet of sewer pipe. That's almost 20 miles. Our engineering advisors, OHM, will assist our utility department to analyze the inspection data. Early results indicate the township's sewer system is in pretty good shape. Any areas of concern will be identified and compiled into a revised capital improvement plan. We anticipate some sewer rehabilitation work will begin this summer.

Maintaining a high quality of life is dependent on many factors. One that is under the control of the township is blight and dilapidation. Last year the township purchased the notorious eyesore and criminal hotspot known as the MacArthur Blvd. party store. We purchased the store, removed the building and cleaned the land. By Thanksgiving the site was clear. Many residents have expressed their gratitude that this symbol of decay is gone and that there is a general revitalization of the MacArthur area led by your Township Board.

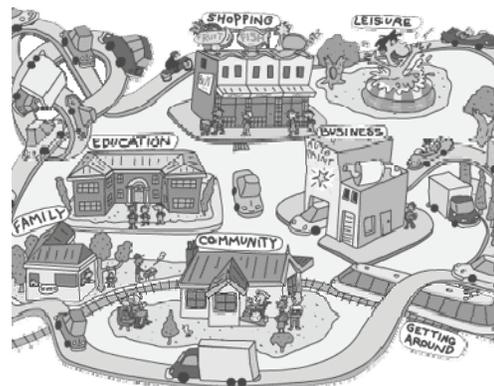
If you have any questions, concerns or matters of interest, feel free to contact me at 734-482-6099.

Pride, (Continued from page 6)

This may feel a little unnatural at first, but it's part of our identity—who we are and the community we share.

The Township is getting on board with this movement, too—after having claimed to be in “Ypsilanti” for so long. It starts with this newsletter—notice the return address.

The more we tell the world who we really are, the more we are aware of it ourselves. Fewer than 14,000 of us have the privilege of being able to say we are from Superior Township. Say it often, and say it with pride!



Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Vic Chevrette



As Fire Chief for the Superior Township Fire Department, I am pleased to update you on what is happening within your Fire Department. With springtime rapidly approaching, many of our residents will be outside conducting spring cleanup. As a friendly reminder, you must follow the requirement for "Burn Permits."

Burn Permits

There are limitations to burning within the Township. There are specific restrictions based on where you live in the Township, size of lot you have, weather conditions, and type of materials you can burn. All details regarding open burning are found in Superior Township Ordinance 185: Burning Ordinance on our website, <http://superior-twp.org> by searching 'burn ordinance.'

The first step is obtaining an application for Open Burning and Burning Ordinance and having it approved by the Township Clerk's Office and the Fire Chief. A Burn Permit must be obtained from the Fire Department at (734) 484-1996, prior to any open burning.

In April, the Washtenaw County Emergency Management Service will begin to conduct the annual "Tornado Siren Test." This test is on the first Saturday of every month at 12 o'clock noon.



Last October, your Fire Department took delivery of a new 2016 KME Fire Engine. We are excited about this new vehicle and have placed it in service to serve the residents of Superior Township.



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**PRESORTED
STANDARD
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Our Township is Superior!

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