

Volume 6 Issue 2

June, 2006

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Superior Township Board of Trustees

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Rodrick Green	Trustee

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

Nancy Caviston, Editor

C/O 3040 Prospect Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48189

734-482-6099 or 734-455-8120

education@superior-twp.org

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

Superior Township currently has 1.5 voted millage dedicated for police service. The state law has rolled it back under Headlee to 1.4326. One hundred per cent goes toward the cost of contracted sheriff deputies. The Township was required to sign a new contract in order to maintain the current level of service at a significant increase in cost. The new contract begins in the year 2006 and ends in the year 2009. The 2006 cost for nine deputies stationed in Superior Township is \$847,962.00. Currently the Township made arrangements with the apartment complexes on Macarthur Blvd to pay for one deputy primarily assigned to their site. The remaining eight deputies are paid for primarily with the dedicated 1.5 police millage, money taken from the Township General Fund and fines from traffic violations. The remaining eight deputies will cost \$753,744.00. The Township received



William McFarlane, Supervisor

\$713,863.79 in the dedicated police millage. It appears from federal legislation and state legislation the Township is likely to lose revenue of over \$100,000.00 from cable fees for the Township General Fund in the future. The State has already cut over \$100,000.00 from state shared revenue to the Township in order to balance the state budget. In the past the Township Board has used General Fund money to augment the dedicated police millage for

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Superior news you can use

Allied Waste provides weekly recycle pick-up as part of your Township sponsored rubbish service at no additional charge. A blue 18-gallon recycle bin is provided for your use in organizing your recycle material for collection. To get a recycle bin if you do not have one, call 800-23403311. Check the Township website www.superior-twp.org/departments for the items you can recycle and how you should

handle them. If you do not have access to our website, you can get the information at the Township Hall or call 482-6099 and we will send you a copy. We also have free bumper stickers - *My Township is Superior - we recycle* available at the Township Hall.



From our Superior Utility Department

Rick Church/Diana Ravis

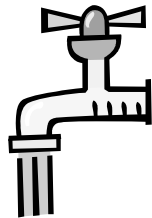
2006 UTILITY DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

New Utility Department Maintenance Facility

The Utility Department Maintenance building, located at 9699 MacArthur Boulevard, is nearing completion and is projected to be ready to occupy by August of this year! This facility will be used to house and service our Utility Department trucks and heavy equipment and will include offices and work areas for our Maintenance staff.

New Water Booster Station

The Utility Department water booster station, located at 810 Clark Road (at the northwest corner of the intersection of Clark and LeForge Roads), is complete and is expected to go on-line in the near future. This water connection is between the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority (YCUA) and Superior Township and will help to provide both domestic water and adequate pressure for fire protection for our current and near future residents.



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 one half of the total rate, the billing for your outside watering is then reduced by approximately one half! 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 purchasing and installing a sprinkler meter.

Neighborhood Watch



We continue to seek ways to improve the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch. Communication is primarily via email notification. If you are interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch information by email, contact me at the email address below or contact our C.O.P.S. officer John Gorney, at gorneyj@ewashtenaw.org.

Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday bimonthly. The next meeting is July 18th at the Westridge Clubhouse. We will discuss the Police millage request which appears on the August 2006 ballot. A committee has formed to examine options for police protection and to help disseminate information about the ballot issue. **John Hudson Coordinator, Superior Township**
Cell Phone: 734- 657-4001
Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net

News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney

♦ **Summer Tax Bills** will be mailed July 1, 2006 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 taxpaying agent or no longer have an escrow, please contact my office to update our records.

Beginning in 2005, new law mandated the following changes to shift the county millage tax portion from the winter tax bill to the summer tax bill. The new shifts are as follows:

- ♦ Summer Taxes 2005 you paid 33% of the county millage.
- ♦ Summer Taxes 2006 you will pay 50% of the county millage.

Summer Taxes 2007 you will pay 100% of the county millage.

Beginning December 1, 2006, dog licenses may be purchased from my office until February 28, 2007.

Green Space Plan: An Important goal of your Superior Township Board is to establish a linked green space System throughout Superior Township. We have completed the non-motorized trail from Clark Rd along Macarthur. We are now in the process of extending the pedestrian trail past Stamford and Harris Rd. Construction will begin this summer, with grants from Washtenaw Urban County and Washtenaw County Parks. Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment will provide engineering services.



**Our Treasurer
Brenda L. McKinney**



Kay Williams, Clerk

News from our Superior Clerk

Kay Williams

The Primary Election is **Tuesday, August 8**. Remember that in a Primary Election you may vote for only one party; you cannot split your vote between parties.

There are three proposals on the ballot:

1. Everyone in the Township votes on the proposal for a 0.75 increase in the police services millage.
2. The residents of the Plymouth-Canton, Willow Run, and Ypsilanti school districts vote on the 1.6 mill proposal to become a part of the Ypsilanti District Library (Ann Arbor voters are already in a library district).
3. The residents of Willow Run vote on the Headlee Override for non-homeowners.

Are you registered to vote in Superior Charter Township? If you are not sure, you can go to www.michigan.gov/sos and follow the links to check, or call me at 734-482-6099 or e-mail at kaywilliams@superior-twp.org, and I will check and let you know.

Absent Voter Ballots - If you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are over 60 years of age, 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 that you must: 1. give the reason for needing the ballot; 2. state where you want the ballot sent; 3. sign the request (must be an original signature); and 4. date the request. Send the request to Kay Williams, Superior Township Clerk, 3040 N. Prospect, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or come into the Township Hall before the Election and fill out an application and pick up an AV Ballot at the same time. The Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Office is also open for Absent Voter Ballot requests on the Saturday preceding each election from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Clerk's Office will automatically send **applications** for an Absent Voter Ballot before each election to registered voters who are on the **Permanent Absent Voter list**. If you are 60 years old or older, you may apply to be placed on the Permanent Absent Voter list and an **application** will be automatically sent to you in the future.

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If you are under 60 years of age and wish to be on the Permanent Absent Voter list, you must qualify for one of the above reasons for receiving a ballot.

Polling Places – Your polling place is listed on your Voter ID card. Precincts 1 & 5 vote at the Township Hall; 2 & 4 vote at Cheney Academy; 3 votes at the Fire Substation.

August 8 Primary Election Ballot

Candidates: Many candidates are unopposed in the Primary: the following list is only those candidates who have opposition: County Commissioner District 2 – Martha Kern-Boprie vs. Ken Schwartz – both Democrats. County Commissioner District 5 – Roland Sizemore vs. Tony Martin – both Democrats.

Proposals: The three millage proposals (police protection, library and Willow Run Headlee override) are listed above.

Our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

The 2006 Summer Learning Camp continues at the Old Township Hall, for children 6 to 13 years. Please contact us at 649-2600 or email us at superiorparks@superior-twp.org for registration information. The registration form can also be accessed at www.superior-twp.org.

We are looking for citizens interested in becoming park stewards. Interested parties should contact the Parks Commission at 575 E. Clark Rd., Ypsilanti 48198 or at superiorparks@superior-twp.org.



The Parks & Recreation Department is in need of park equipment such as benches, picnic tables and sporting equipment. Please contact the Parks Commission for further information.

Keith Lockie
Superior Township
Parks & Recreation Administrator
575 E. Clark Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Phone: 734-480-5502
Fax: 734-484-4883



Our Superior Environment

Deb Kuehn

Ask for River-Friendly Fertilizer

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our rivers. So when we fertilize our lawn we may also be fertilizing our rivers. And while fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. The phosphorus found in most fertilizers causes large algae blooms in our rivers. These blooms use the oxygen fish need to survive.

The most river-friendly action is not to fertilize at all. But if you want to give your lawn a fertilizer boost, you can still help the river by purchasing no-phosphorus products. To determine

the phosphorus content on a bag of fertilizer, check the middle number in the three number series. Ideally, that number would be zero, indicating no phosphorus in the product.

Still, if you think your lawn or garden needs some phosphorus, please have your soil tested first. The Washtenaw County MSU Extension office can guide you through this simple process. Their number is 734-997-1819.



Supervisor (Continued from page 1)

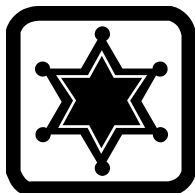
police coverage. The new growth in the Township cannot provide the additional needed revenue to offset the increased cost for deputies. Based on the new contract the Township was required to sign in order to maintain the current level of protection, the 2007 cost for deputies will be \$988,839.00. The 2008 cost is likely to be \$1,363,527.00. The 2009 cost is likely to be \$1,412,667.00. This does not include housing costs for electricity, gas and maintenance of the building used by the deputies. Therefore, the Township Board has placed on the 2006 August Primary Ballot a new 0.75 millage which would be dedicated to police service. A home valued at \$200,000.00 would pay an additional \$75.00 per year in taxes.

In light of the escalating cost of police coverage, the Township Board has established a Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate the future of police service in Superior Township. The committee's task is to investigate all methodologies the Township could employ to protect the residents of the Township in an affordable manner. The committee consists of Township residents, Township officials and staff with the undersheriff of Washtenaw County. The committee will investigate and report back to the Board of Trustees on four options. The options in-

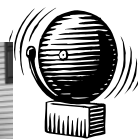
clude (1) the Township continuing to contract with the sheriff department for police coverage, (2) forming a new regional police department with neighboring townships who also currently contract with the sheriff department, (3) joining an existing police department to form a new regional police department, and (4) starting a new Superior Township police department. The likely time frame will be seven or eight months to complete the investigation and report back to the Board of Trustees. The current contract with Washtenaw County can be terminated at any time with six month notice if the Township chooses to use a different method of police protection. The Blue Ribbon Committee will be examining long term options for decreasing the tax burden and improving the service. It appears the new 0.75 millage would be needed to continue the current coverage with the sheriff department or utilizing a different methodology. Citizens can't be taxed out of their homes to be safe. The Township must look at all options for a realistic approach to public safety. The Blue Ribbon Committee should provide the pros and cons in the final report regarding the best methodology of protecting every Superior Township resident at an affordable cost.

Our New False Alarm Ordinance

The Charter Township of Superior passed a False Alarm Ordinance for police responses that are the result of a malfunctioning alarm system. One residence had police respond 23 times in one year to false alarms due to malfunctioning systems. The goal is for people to have their systems in proper working order. The ordinance will take affect in July of 2006. The first false alarm response is free. The second in a calendar year will be \$25.00. The third is \$100.00 and all subsequent responses will be \$200.00 per incident in one calendar year.



The average time for deputies responding to false alarm is 30-45 minutes. There were 883 alarm requests in 2005; only 16 were the result of criminal activity. It was determined that 7 were the result of storms or weather. The remainders were simply malfunctioning systems. The sheriff department suggested up to 490 hours of deputies' time were spent responding to false alarms.



News from our Superior Fire Department

The fire department has put a public education trailer into service. The trailer and the paint job were paid for by donations from Superior Township Fire Fighters, William Toth III, George and Betty Brower, Donald Brothers, Biltmore Properties, Stadium / Budget Towing, J.C.'s Landscaping LLC and Belfor USA Property Restoration. The Fire Department is grateful to all who donated.

The trailer will hold all of our public education supplies, including extinguishers, training stove, life signs and more. It will be used at schools, open houses, and events such as the Dixboro fair.

Contact the Fire Department at 734-484-1996 if your Superior Township organization is interested in Fire education. Also visit our web site at www.superiortownshipfire.com



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Our Township is Superior!

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