

Volume 8 Issue 2

July, 2008

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Superior Township Board of Trustees

William McFarlane	Supervisor
Kay Williams	Clerk
Brenda McKinney	Treasurer
Nancy Caviston	Trustee
Lisa Lewis	Trustee
David Phillips	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, 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

734-482-60990 or 734-455-8120

education@superior-twp.org

From our Superior Supervisor . . .



William McFarlane, Supervisor

The Township Board of Trustees has implemented summer hours beginning June 30, 2008. Certain employees will be working ten-hour days four days a week. Office hours will be 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). The staggered days off for employees will allow residents to have broader access to Township services. The high cost of fuel, its effect on the environment, and the potential to offer more hours for residents prompted the expanded hours. The summer hours will end August 31, 2008. The hours of operation will be evaluated in August to determine if the expanded hours should continue.

Millage Renewal

The Township Board of Trustees has authorized the Law Enforcement

millage renewal of 2.25 mills and a reduced Fire Prevention millage renewal of 3.00 mills to be on the August 5, 2008 Primary Election ballot. The 2.25 millage will provide funding to continue the current level of contracted deputy coverage. The Fire Department millage was previously 3.50 mills. The 3.00 mills will allow the current level of Fire Department coverage to continue. The Fire Department has nine full-time

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

News from our Superior Clerk	2
Our Superior Neighborhood Watch	2
News from our Superior Treasurer	3
News from Our Superior Parks	4
Our Superior Fire Department news	5
From Our Superior Utilities	6

Superior news you can use

Diana Ravis, Utilities Coordinator

SAVING ON 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.



News from our Superior Clerk



Kay Williams, Clerk

The Primary Election is on August 5. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling places are Precinct 1 - Township Hall- 3040 N. Prospect; Precinct 2 - Cheney Academy - 1500 Stamford; Precinct 3 - Christian Love Church - 1601 Stamford; Precinct 4 - Cheney Academy - 1500 Stamford; Precinct 5 - Township Hall - 3040 N. Prospect. These polling places are the same for ALL elections.

Absent Voter Ballots: If you are expecting to be out-of-the-community on Election Day, are over 60 years of age, or are 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. Absent Voter Ballots are available until 4:00 p.m. the Monday preceding the election. The Clerk's Office is open for Absent Voter Ballot requests on the Saturday preceding each election from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

STUDENTS - If you registered to vote by mail, you must apply to vote in person the first time you vote. So if you want an absent voter ballot in November,

please come in to the Township Hall and apply before you go away to school. 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 or over and wish to be on the Permanent Absent Voter list, please contact the Clerk's Office - 734-482-6099- or kaywilliams@superior-twp.org. 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. You still must apply for the Absent Voter Ballot for each election. By law, all the Clerk's Office will do is send the application.

The Ballot for the Primary Election on August 5, 2008, is on the Township Website www.superior-twp.org. In addition to candidates there are two millage RENEWALS (not increases) for fire protection and law enforcement (police).



Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

Neighbors looking out for neighbors reduces the opportunity for criminals to take advantage of citizens. Get to know your neighbors and their vehicles. If something looks out-of-place, call 911. It is better to be safe than sorry. Criminals do not like to see neighbors watching them. Be a good neighbor and help prevent crime.

The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will take place on July 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Township Hall (next to the Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect). For further information e-mail -

jHUDSON300606MI@comcast.net.

News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney



**Our Treasurer
Brenda L. McKinney**

Your 2007 Tax Dollars at Work A Brief Summary

Ann Arbor Schools	2,288,050	Washtenaw County	3,151,789
Plymouth Schools	213,883	Township	483,149
Willow Run Schools	2,558,994	Fire Fund	1,932,298
Ypsilanti Schools	1,811,886	Law Fund	1,270,229
State Education	3,461,969	Legal Defense Fund	147,310
Ann Arbor Library	457,460	Ypsilanti Library	515,922
Washtenaw ISD	2,085,092	Washtenaw Community College	2,051,753
Wayne ISD	108,349	Schoolcraft College	2,229

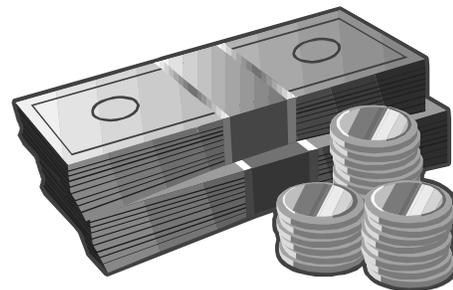
I collected \$22,541,252 in property taxes for 2007 Tax Season. The Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$325,868, which included county drain assessments, street-lights, side street maintenance, delinquent water bills, ordinance violations, and false alarms. In addition, 1053 parcels went delinquent; the total amount unpaid was \$1,942,660 and this amount was turned over to Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- Summer Tax Bills were mailed out July 1, 2008 and payable through September 15 without penalty. If you do not receive your summer tax bill, please contact the Treasurer's office at (734) 482-6099.
- In regards to escrow payments, if you recently refinanced your mortgage and now have a new tax-paying agent or no longer have an escrow, please contact my office to update our records.

- New homeowners, please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to receive the 100% homestead exemption. You can go online to pay your taxes at www.superior-twp.org.

It is a pleasure serving the residents of Superior Township. As always, I have an open-door policy. Stop in and see me anytime. I am always happy to answer any questions. Thank you for letting me serve you as your Treasurer.



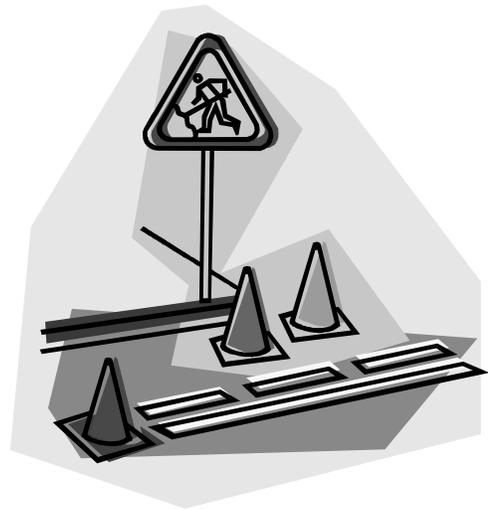
(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

fire-fighters, a part-time Chief and part-time Fire Marshal. The Trustees did not authorize the 0.25 Legal Defense millage to be on the ballot. Instead the Board of Trustees expanded insurance coverage to assist in the defense of the Growth Management Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The Township currently contracts for nine Sheriff Department deputies. Superior Township and Ann Arbor Township are collaborating regarding the law enforcement contracting of deputies. Ann Arbor Township contracts for four deputies. Deputies assigned to either township are able to respond to calls for service. The time of response has been reduced, benefiting both communities. This also provides for more pro-active patrol time. In addition the Township Board of Trustees has negotiated a contract with the two apartment complexes on Macarthur Blvd to help offset the cost of law enforcement provided there.

The administrative staff continues to monitor all funds, cutting costs where possible without reducing service. Again this year the Township Auditors, Pfeffer, Hanniford and Palka, gave the Township an unqualified Audit Report, the best report results possi-

ble. Superior Township remains the only Township in Washtenaw County to have an AA- Bond rating. The Township General Fund employee assignments have been reorganized to better serve the residents. Staff reductions with the reorganization will not result in reduced service.

The Township is also increasing the contract with Washtenaw County Road Commission for road projects in the amount of \$205,248.60 from dollars in our reserve fund. The 2008 specific road projects can be viewed on the Township Website.



Our Superior Parks Department

Superior Township Parks is offering an excellent Summer Learning Camp this year! Along with outdoor activities, breakfast and lunch, each week of the 8-week program features a theme, with activities designed to excite the curiosity of our campers.

Our creative team of counselors draw from their educational experience to put together programs that are both fun and instructive, including units that explore history, animals, plants, dinosaurs, outer space, and famous people, among other topics, and each week includes a theme-based field trip, along with weekly trips to Rutherford Pool.

We are happy to be able to offer camp scholarships to qualifying Superior Township campers, also. For information on our Summer Learning Camp, or about any of our many excellent Superior Township Parks, please call 480-5502. We at Superior Township Parks wish you a great summer!



Our Superior Fire Department

Fire Chief J. Roberts



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Our department has been actively working on a township emergency action plan that would be put into effect should we suffer some form of emergency. The plan will cover eighteen topics such as fire, tornadoes, floods, terrorist activities, water supply, snow storms, etc. and will be in place for department heads and personnel to follow.

The plan will supply telephone numbers, names and places where supplies can be secured at all hours and contingencies whereby the township can operate under extreme emergency conditions should the need arise. We expect to have this in place by this fall which will involve practice session training conducted by the fire department so all township personnel will be familiar with and know what their job will be in the case of any emergency.



CHILD INFANT SEAT PROGRAM

Fire fighter Jeff Kujawa attended a one week class last year on proper infant seat installation in automobiles and will teach you how to do it correctly as he installs the seat for you. It is estimated that most of the seats are not correctly installed and a telephone call to Jeff (734-484-1996) to set an appointment is all it takes to correct the situation. Make an appointment with Fire Fighter Kujawa, bring your car and infant seat to the department and learn more about infant car seat safety.

Natural Wonders

Rare plants and animals spotted in the Huron River watershed
By Jo Latimore and Elizabeth Riggs

[excerpted from the Spring 2006 issue of the Huron River Report, the quarterly newsletter of the Huron River Watershed Council]

A flock of ducks dabbling along the water's edge. Brilliant leaves swirling down onto a quiet meadow in autumn. Deer nibbling on new spring grass. These are common natural encounters in the Huron River Watershed, readily accessible to anyone who has a little time to spend on a trail or in a canoe. However, with a little more time and a bit of knowledge about where to look— and what to look for — you might be fortunate enough to see some of the rarer plants and animals that recently have been spotted right here in your watershed, all of which serve as a testament to the high quality resources that Huron River Watershed Council is working constantly to protect.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY

Adopt-A-Stream volunteer John Cramer photographed some interesting fish in Fleming Creek in 2003 and sent the photographs to HRWC for identification. We identified them as American brook lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*), a non-parasitic native lamprey that lives in gravel or sand riffles in creeks, and in small to medium rivers with strong flow and clean water. This harmless lamprey should not be confused with invasive, parasitic sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) that has had a disastrous effect on lake trout in the Great Lakes. While not threatened, these fish are rarely encountered due to their small size. Unlike other lampreys, the American brook lamprey may engage in communal spawning with 20 to 40 individuals in a single large nest; such a spawning event was likely in progress when these lampreys were encountered in Fleming Creek.

Our Superior Utilities

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.
- ◆ Effective immediately and through the end of August, we have extended our office and payment hours. 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.

What are my payment options?

- ◆ If making a payment by mail, through our drop box 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](#)

Superior Charter Township
Superior Scenes Editor
 Nancy Caviston, Trustee
 3040 Prospect Road
 Ypsilanti, MI 48198
education@superior-twp.org
 734-482-6099 Fax 734-482-3842

**PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 YPSILANTI, MI
 PERMIT NO 489**

Our Township is Superior!

Email:

willammcfarlane@superior-twp.org
kaywilliams@superior-twp.org
brendamckinney@superior-twp.org



*This is printed
 on recycled
 paper.*