

Volume 5 Issue 3

September, 2005

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
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

Inside this issue:

News from our Superior Utilities	2
News from our Superior Treasurer	3
News from our Superior Clerk	3
Neighborhood Watch	4
Our Superior Wetlands	4
SEMCOG—Rideshare	5
Superior Fire Department News	6

From our Superior Supervisor. . .

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has scheduled a public hearing at the Superior Township Hall at Prospect and Cherry Hill Roads for **October 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** The topic is a state permit to allow Rock Properties to construct an on-site community sewer for a 1,950 manufactured home community (mobile home park). This community sewer is proposing a surface discharge of treated water to go directly into the Huron River. In the opinion of the Township Engineers, the Huron River Watershed Council and many others, the current technologies do not have the ability to remove phosphates that cause algae to form in the down stream areas of the River. Rock Properties have never spoken to a Township representative regarding this proposal. They went directly to the MDEQ prior to securing the proper zoning and site plan approval from the Township which the



William McFarlane, Supervisor

State of Michigan allows. The Superior Township Board has taken a strong position of opposition regarding this proposal. The Township has hired skilled consultants to provide the MDEQ the proper information to deny this application. In addition to the issue of the community sewer the proposal also calls for wells to supply water to the development. The Township has a major concern regarding this draw of water from wells which likely will have a negative impact on existing homes currently

Continued on page 5

Superior news you can use

Fertilize in the fall for early spring green

Fertilizing during the early fall season can help strengthen your lawn's roots for an early spring green! Applying fertilizer in the cooler temperatures and rain of early fall provides your lawn with the nutrients it needs to recover from the hot summer months.

Remember that storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams!

While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer that enters our lakes and streams can cause algae to grow and use up oxygen that fish need to survive.

From our Superior Utility Department

Diane Rivis

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

We are located in the Parks and Recreation Building at the corner of Prospect & Clark Roads. Our office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed government holidays). Payments are received through our drive through window, which is open from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Our payment drop box, located on the east side of the building, is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week for water bill payments (checks or money orders only).

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. Having a final reading done will ensure 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 480-5500 so that we have all the necessary information to set up a new account for you.

2005 UTILITY DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following construction projects are near completion and should not cause future traffic delays:

The construction of a second water connection for Superior Township's water and sewer district at Geddes and Ridge Roads.

A water and sanitary sewer Installation project within the road right-of-way along Ridge Road, between Geddes and Clark Roads and along McIntosh Road, between Wiard Road and Harvest Lane.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our residents

for your patience during these improvement projects.

The following Utility Department construction project is scheduled to begin in the near future and may cause some traffic delays for our residents:

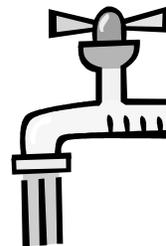
The installation of a third water connection for Superior Township's water and sewer district will require construction near the intersection of Leforge and Clark Roads. As part of this project, an above ground water booster station will be constructed near the northwest corner of the intersection.

SUMMER WATER USE CAN BE VERY COSTLY

If you are planning on laying sod, planting new landscaping and/or will be installing a sprinkler system, we highly recommend that you consider purchasing a sprinkler meter.

If a sprinkler meter is installed, we can measure the amount of water you have used for your outside watering. You would be charged only for the water portion of the total rate, which would cut this portion of your bill approximately by one half! Your house (inside) water usage would continue to be billed for water, sewer and waste treatment.

Some residents, located in some of our newer subdivisions, had extremely high water usage last fall and spring as well as this summer. This resulted in very high water bills (\$700 and up) for them for those quarters. We attribute this high usage and the subsequent large water bills to a combination of new sod being laid, landscapes being planted and sprinkler systems being installed.



News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney

Power Outages: If you have a power outage please contact DTE Energy at 800-477-4747. By calling, you will help DTE Energy locate the problem areas in our township.

Non-Motorized Trails: With the help of a grant from the Washtenaw County Parks Commission your Township Board built a non-motorized trail along the east side of MacArthur making it safer for people to walk in the area. As part of our on-going attempt to make Superior Township a walking community, Pulte Homes has built a non-motorized trail along Geddes and Prospect surrounding the new Prospect Point Subdivision. Your Township Board will be requiring future developers to construct more non-motorized trails along our roadways. All these things help make our Township Superior. (Note: these and future non-motorized trails will not have winter maintenance.)

Oakbrook Subdivison Changes: Diversified Properties, which is building Prospect Pointe East north of Berkshire, is donating new play-

ground equipment to Oakbrook Park and is also going to re-design the entranceway at Berkshire.

Summer Tax Bills: Your summer tax bill was mailed to you or your taxpaying agent on July 1, and is due by September 15. If you are responsible for paying your property taxes and have not yet received a bill, please contact my office at (734-482-6099).

Late Summer Tax Payments: Any summer tax payments received after September 15, including payments processed online will be charged one percent interest each month until paid.

Dog License: Dog licenses may be purchased beginning December 1 through February 28. Proof of a valid rabies shot is required. **Fees are as follows:** Un-neutered or Un-spayed dog is \$10.00, neutered or spayed dog is \$5.00.

Deferments: Reminder to Seniors Citizens, Farmers and Veteran your deferments are due by Sept 15.



Our Treasurer
Brenda L. McKinney

News from our Superior Clerk



Kay Williams, Clerk

Public Hearing on MDEQ Proposal for an On-site Sewer Plant

As you read in the Supervisor's Report on the first page, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has scheduled a hearing for an on-site sewer plant for **October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.** We expect that many of you will wish to comment on this issue and ask that your **submit your comments in writing** and provide a copy to the Township. You will probably be limited to 3 minutes so written comments can be more detailed and convey more information. The written comments will become part of the permanent record of the hearing.

No elections are scheduled for the rest of 2005. As of now, the next scheduled election will be the school elections on May 2, 2006.

I have been working with the County on updating our website. The new site should be on-line soon. You will still be able to access it with our same name - www.superior-twp.org - but it will have a new look. The Township will also be saving some money with the new site as the County will not charge the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Township for the service. The new site will also be able to carry more information than the present site which was designed over four years ago. So check it out and let me know what you think.

Superior Land Conservancy

The Superior Land Conservancy has created a cookbook which will go on sale in October for \$8.00. The recipes were contributed by members and friends of the Conservancy. 100% of the proceeds will be used to continue preservation of land/historical sites in Superior Township. If you wish to order a cookbook, please call 7343-482-7414. The Conservancy also offers other books of interest to Township residents – Historic Resources Inventory of Superior Township both Abridged and Unabridged, and Environmentally Significant Areas of Superior Township.

It is hoped that the information presented in these books will be of value to Township planners and other concerned citizens as they continue to orchestrate growth, balancing development pressures with our responsibility to preserve precious environmental and historic resources for future generations.

We invite you to join the Superior Land Conservancy. Call 734-482-7414 for more information.

RECYCLE PROGRAM

Great Lakes Waste is now Allied Waste Services. The Township has a contract with them which provides weekly recycle pick-up as part of your rubbish service at no additional charge. A blue 18-gallon recycle bin is provided for your use in organizing your recycle material for collection.

Yard waste

Yard waste service is available **only** from April 1 to November 30 and is picked up on your regular trash day by a separate truck. Compost material must be placed in brown paper “Kraft” bags or loose in trash cans with handles which are clearly marked “COMPOST”. Small limbs or brush can be securely tied in bundles that do not exceed 4 feet in length or 50 pounds in weight. Under no circumstances can Allied Waste Services pick up yard waste material in plastic bags. Due to their size, Christmas trees are not considered to be compost and will be picked up as trash after the holidays.

Thank you for recycling and helping to keep our Township Superior. Just another way to keep our Township Superior.



Our Superior Wetlands

William Secret

Development pressures have never been greater in Superior Township than they are today. The “country living” espoused in the real estate ads are quickly yielding to a suburbia of “memorial developments.” The real wild things are being run out or run over as they are replaced by housing projects bearing their names. The conversations of the frogs around the ponds at night are being subsumed by the roar of traffic. The quiet places at the edge of town are being absorbed into the vast sprawling metropolis.

It needn't go this way. Our local officials are doing their best to strike a fair balance between development pressures and preservation, but they need our alert and active support. An

informed and active citizenry will make the difference. The Superior Land Conservancy was organized in 1991 to foster awareness of our natural environment and to work for its protection. We are a chapter of the not-for-profit, charitable organization, The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, headquartered in an old farmhouse surrounded by a 424 acre nature preserve in the heart of the township. Free, family-friendly local nature adventures are sponsored by the Conservancy throughout the year. To join up or for further information, please call the President, Marion Morris at 734-482-7414.



Supervisor (Continued from page 1)

using well water. The Township feels this use is not consistent or appropriate for the area. The growth management plan and zoning do not regard this to be an appropriate use for the area. The Township Board and consultants will be at the meeting to provide the MDEQ valid reason for denying this application.

Biltmore Developers have applied for a public hearing on the Eyde properties north of Geddes at Leforge for a change to the Growth Management Plan and zoning change to a Planned Community Development. The public hearing is scheduled for **December 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Township Hall. The proposed use is for residential housing with NO golf course. The proposed plan now calls for a large amount of open space

instead of the golf course. There will be more information available prior the December public hearing on this proposal.

The Washtenaw County Road Commission is scheduled to build a traffic circle (round-about) at Superior Road and Geddes Road during 2006. This should provide traffic calming and a safer intersection. The Road Commission, Township, and Hyundai are studying the concept of another traffic circle at Leforge and Geddes. This round-about would be paid for by Hyundai as part of the required road improvements. The idea is to improve the intersections so Geddes Road could handle more traffic without lane expansion to three or more lanes.

Neighborhood Watch

This is John Hudson, the Township coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. We continue to try to improve the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email, contact me at the email address below. I will attach the activity report to the newsletter and send it to you. If you are interested in learning more about Neighborhood Watch, or if you have concerns about crime in your neighborhood, please contact me or attend our

next meeting. Meetings are usually attended by a Sheriff's officer and held at 7:00 on the second Tuesday, every other month, at the Township Parks building at the corner of Clark and Prospect.

John Hudson

Coordinator, Superior Township

Cell Phone: 734- 657-4001

Jhudson300606MI@comcast.net



Looking for a solution to high gas prices?

SEMCOG says try Rideshare

With gas prices now at just under \$3.00 per gallon, SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, reminds Southeast Michigan commuters that sharing a ride to work will help to lower commuting costs.

High gas prices in August caused a near record number of commuters in Southeast Michigan to complete a ridesharing application. More than 345 applications for ridesharing were received at SEMCOG this August, compare that to 48 received in August 2004, usually a slow month due to summer vacations. Can consumers save money by sharing a ride? Absolutely, says SEMCOG. To find out how much, consumers are urged to visit SEMCOG's Web site, where a Rideshare cost savings calculator is available to calculate savings.

SEMCOG's Rideshare program is a free, computerized service

that matches car and vanpool partners for the daily work commute. Users will be matched with others who share common neighborhoods, work locations, and hours. While many commuters may choose a more informal ride share, those who register as carpool or vanpool participants in SEMCOG's Rideshare program are also eligible for Rideshares Guaranteed Ride Home Program, which offers taxi fare reimbursement should an emergency, arise during the workday and there is a need to get home in a hurry.

Why do people ride share? High gas prices may be the answer today, but may not be the only reason. A recent survey of SEMCOG's Rideshare database revealed that nearly 60 percent share the ride to save money. Just over a quarter (27 percent) are motivated by environmental concerns, while stress reduction was the reason for 21 percent. To find out if the Rideshare program will work for you, please call 866-510-POOL or complete an application online at www.semco.org.

News from our Superior Fire Department



2005

Superior Township Fire Dept. Open House

Date: - Sunday October 9th, 2005

Time: - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: - Corner of Prospect and Ford Roads.

Enjoy a tour of the new fire station as well as looking over our equipment.

Bring a camera and take a picture of your children on the fire trucks.

It will be necessary to park along both Prospect and Ford Roads. Please use caution as you walk along the roadways.

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:

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



This is printed on recycled paper.