

Volume 11 Issue 2

October, 2011

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

Superior Township Board of Trustees
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 David Phillips Clerk
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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 48198

734-482-6099

education@superior-twp.org

Superior Township, like most communities, has lost revenue due to the depressed economy. Property values have dropped in every area of the Township resulting in a decline in the revenue available to pay for police and fire services. Yet the quality of life of a community is directly related to how safe and secure you feel in your home. Having a police officer on every corner and ten firefighters responding to every request for service would be ideal. However, like our residents, Superior Township has had to make adjustments and base our spending on the revenue received. Our decisions on service delivery have taken into account ways to maintain an acceptable level today and in the future.

An example of this long term planning can be found in how the Township recently purchased a new fire truck. Fire trucks are extremely expensive and we paid approximately \$450,000.00 for our new truck. It can carry extra water and has a heavy duty motor and transmission. It should last about twenty years. We paid cash because we saved a little every year towards that goal. We continue to save a portion of the revenue each year for future building and equipment replacement.



William McFarlane, Supervisor

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Superior news you can use

Mary Garboden

Join us at the Superior branch (Harris and MacArthur) of the Ypsilanti Library for all these upcoming activities for October and November, 2011.

Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, October 11, 12-1 pm

Itty Bitty Chalkboards: Decorate the frame of a mini chalkboard with foam stickers (Youth)

Saturday, October 15, 2-3:30 pm

Trick Photography: Strike a pose in a trick photo and get copies of your photos to take home (Youth & Teens)

Tuesday, October 18, 6-9 pm

After-Hours Spooky Movie: Make a simple, spooky craft and help decorate our haunted library for a screening of Disney's *The Haunted Mansion* (PG), which begins promptly at 6:45 pm (All Ages)

Thursday, October 27, 6-7:30 pm

Pumpkin Carving: Carve a scary, happy or silly Halloween pumpkin. We'll provide the



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News from our Superior Clerk

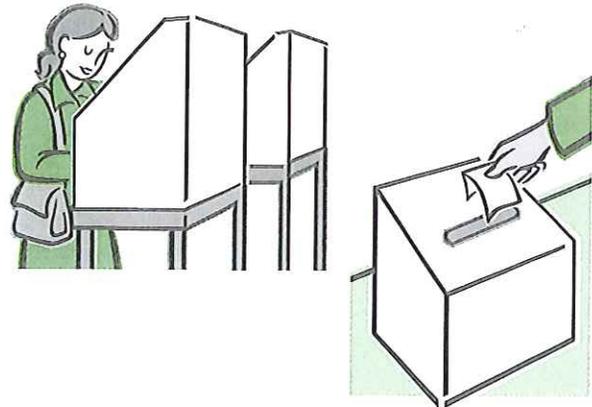
On Tuesday, November 8, 2011 there will be school elections in Superior Township. All four school districts in Superior Township will be electing board members. All five voting precincts will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. There are no other issues on Superior Township's ballots. Ann Arbor Public Schools will be electing two school board members, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will be electing four school board members, the Ypsilanti Public Schools will be electing two school board members and the Willow Run Community Schools will be electing one full term and one partial term school board member.

As always, you can request an Absent Voter Ballot if you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are 60 years of age or older, are disabled or because of the tenets of your religion. You may use a pre-printed form (available on the Township website (<http://twp-superior.org/voting/index.html>) 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. 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. AV Ballots are available until 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding the elections.

The Clerk's Office will be open for Absent Voter Ballot requests from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm the Saturday preceding each election. Military and overseas civilian voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act are eligible to use the Federal Post Card Application Form and receive an absentee ballot by e-mail or fax. Further information can be obtained on the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website (www.fvap.gov). If you have any questions, please contact me, David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: davidphillips@superior-twp.org.



David Phillips,
Clerk



Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is an effective program to reduce crime in our community. It advocates community awareness, communication and preventative measures. John Hudson is the Township coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. If you would like to receive Neighborhood Watch information by email, please contact John Hudson at:

jhudson300606MI@comcast.net. He will place you on his e-mail alert list. His alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up to the minute alerts received from the Sheriff's department and from citizens. Meetings are open to all and are usually held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday every other month. The last meeting scheduled for 2011 is

November 22nd at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, across from Township Hall. Sycamore Meadows Apartments also conduct Neighborhood Watch meetings for their area. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month in their community room. For further information please contact Sycamore Meadows Office at 734-483-4000.



News from our Superior Treasurer

Brenda L. McKinney



Brenda L. McKinney
Treasurer

Your Tax Dollars at Work - 2010

Here is a brief Summary

• Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,241,489	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,194,645
• Plymouth Schools:	\$ 236,945	Township:	\$ 474,672
• Willow Run Schools:	\$ 2,426,872	Fire:	\$1,651,446
• Ypsilanti Schools:	\$ 1,843,523	Police:	\$1,240,025
• State Education:	\$ 3,408,122	Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 385,039
• Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 455,342	Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,058,201
• Wash Comm College:	\$ 2,027,976	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 1,978
• Wayne ISD:	\$ 116,130		

The Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$417,015.00, which included county drain assessments, streetlights, Oakbrook and Washington Square side street maintenance, delinquent water bills, ordinance violations, false alarms and Hyundai Road Improvement. In addition, 620 parcels went delinquent. The total amount unpaid was \$1,238,505.92 and has been turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- **Summer Collection:** Payable July 1 through September 14 without interest charge. Beginning September 15 through September 30 a 1% interest charge per month will be added on the first of each month to the unpaid balance.
- **Escrow Payments:** Homeowners who have refinanced, please have the current bank contact my office with new mailing information.

Our Superior Wetlands



Even if you do not have a wetland in your backyard or live on the banks of the Huron River, what you do at home can pollute our waterways. That is why the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office created the *River-Safe Homes* program. The program offers homeowners the chance to identify the pollution prevention practices they may already be doing and to commit to trying other practices that they may not have considered before.

To participate, homeowners review the brief descriptions of four topics and complete a short online survey. The topics include: Home Toxics Disposal, Yard Care and Outdoor

Housekeeping, Vehicle Care, Pets and Urban Wildlife Waste. After completing the survey, homeowners may display a *RiverSafe Home* marker furnished by the Water Resources Commissioner's Office.

For more information and to take the online survey visit the *Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's* website, www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner



(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

Adapting to lower revenue creates the opportunity to find different methods for providing service. Superior Township and Ann Arbor Township have had an excellent relationship with the joint deployment of sheriff deputies. Because of this success we are now forming an agreement with each fire service to have automatic responses for structure fires and serious auto accidents. In the past, either fire service could call for mutual aid to help when needed. The difference now is it will be automatic.

The Township has also received a verbal commitment from Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital (located in Superior Township) to help offset the cost of a deputy sheriff. Much of the hospital complex is tax exempt but it still requires service from Township-paid deputies. In recent years, the Township has contracted with the Sheriff's Department for an additional deputy for three months during the summer. The hospital has agreed to pick up the cost for the additional nine months. This will give the Sheriff's Department the ability to offset deployment for follow-up investigation and establish a stronger relationship with hospital security.

Quality of life also is impacted by roads and community parks. While the Washtenaw County Road Commission is 100% responsible for all public road maintenance, the Township has historically contracted for additional improvements to non-primary roads. Much if not all of the local improvements made this year, including dust control, were paid for by the Township. The proposed 2012 budget for the Township enhancement of public roads was increased to \$210,000. Additionally, Plymouth Road will be resurfaced in 2012 from M-153 to Dixboro Road via Federal Highway Safety Funds.

The proposed 2012 budget for Superior Township Parks remains the same at \$223,488. Please take advantage of our excellently maintained Township Parks.

Considering the plight of many communities, Superior Township is in pretty good shape. Providing service that impacts your quality of life remains a top priority for today and the future.

Proposed budgets for 2012 and annual audits are available on the Township web-site, www.superior-twp.org.



Happy Halloween



News from our Superior Parks

Superior Township Parks is pleased to announce that your parks will be even more beautiful in the coming years! We are the recipients of a generous donation from ITC Holdings Corp. for planting trees. An advisory panel that included Greg Secord (Park Maintenance Director), Ellen Kurath (Natural Resources Consultant to the Township), Marion Morris (Park Commissioner), and Keith Lockie (Parks Administrator) came up with a plan for enhancing our parks. Along with the ITC donation, Parks is also helping to fund this project, and Ms. Kurath has kindly offered to donate some native species that she is cultivating. Be on the lookout for new plantings at Harvest Moon Park, Community Park,

Oakbrook Park, Fireman's Park, and Cherry Hill Nature Preserve!

Mark your calendars for our next event! On Saturday October 22nd, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., we will hold our annual pumpkin-carving gathering at Norfolk Park. Pumpkins, cider and doughnuts will be provided. Bring your Halloween carving ideas! All ages are welcome! Rain date is October 29th.



Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

SPECIAL NOTICE:

The Utility Department will remain on our seasonal extended hours through October 28th. During this time period, our office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for phone calls and inquiries. Our drive through window is open from 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. for accepting payments.

As of Monday, October 31st, our schedule will return to the hours that are listed below.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the department's hours, phone number and location?
 - We are located at 575 East Clark Road (at the northeast corner of Prospect & Clark Roads).
 - We can be reached by telephone at 734-480-5500.
 - Our office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for scheduling appointments and making account information inquiries by phone.
 - We can accept payments and inquiries through our drive-through window from 8:15 a.m. through 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
 - 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.
2. What are my payment options?
 - Payments made either 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 only) 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](#) and just follow the instructions.

3. 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 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 address.

SAVING ON OUTSIDE WATERING COSTS

If you are planning on laying sod and/or planting new landscaping in the future, 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 as much as one third. Contact us at 734-480-5500 for additional information on sprinkler meters.



Contacts you can use

Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, 734-482-6099 www.superior-twp.org. Contact for Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Assessing, Building Inspection, Planning and Zoning, and General Information. Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Superior Township Utility Department, 575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, 734-480-5500. Call for starting and stopping water service, payment of bills, problems with water or sewer service and emergency service.

Superior Township Parks, 575 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, 734-480-5502. Contact for information on park location and upcoming programs.

Superior Township Fire Department, For emergencies call 911. For burn permits or general information call 734-484-1996.

Superior Township Sheriff's Department Substation, 3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. For emergencies call 911. For general information call 734-481-2521.

Washtenaw County Road Commission, 555 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, 734-761-1500. Contact for information on road repairs and to report problems.

Ypsilanti District Library – Superior Branch, 8975 MacArthur Blvd. at Harris, 734-482-4110 ext. 1391. Contact for library hours and general information.

Republic Waste, 877-264-5544 Contact for starting and stopping service, payment of bills, problems with service, recycling, yard waste, bulk items and general information.

Ypsilanti Compost Center, 2600 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, 48198, 734-482-6681. Accepts Yard Waste, Used Motor Oil, Batteries and Scrap Metal. Contact for cost and hours.

Continued from page 1 Superior News You Can Use

pumpkin, safe cutting tools and a candle. Registration is required: 482-4110, ext. 1391 (Youth/Teen)

Saturday, November 12, 2-3:30 pm

Papermaking: Make your own recycled paper from pulp and use flower petals, leaves, glitter, and vegetable dyes to show off your creativity. Registration required: 482-4110,

ext. 1391 (Ages 8-18)

Tuesday, November 15, 12-1 pm

Mish Mash Crafts: Entertain your creative spirit and create a masterpiece from our repurposed craft supplies (Youth)

Thursday, November 17, 6-7:30 pm

Star Wars Puppets: Make a felt Master Yoda stick puppet and/or an R2D2 hand puppet (Ages 8-18)

Superior Places

Committee to Promote Superior Township

With fall colors arriving, now is the perfect time to explore the natural wonders of our township.



Superior Township boasts a number of nature preserves with walking and hiking trails. Springhill Nature Preserve at Berry Road south of Ford Road, LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve at Prospect/Geddes roads, Cherry Hill Nature Preserve at Cherry Hill Road east of Gale Road and Kosch-

Headwaters Preserve at Prospect/Ford roads all offer opportunities to get out and enjoy the season's colors. Community Park, Fireman's Park, Harvest Moon Park, Norfolk Park, Oakbrook Park, Schock Park and Schroeter Park, as well as the non-motorized trails throughout the southern portion of the township and a portion of the Border-to-Border Trail in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital area, are delightful family destinations in the fall (visit [www.superior-twp.org/departments, parks & recreation](http://www.superior-twp.org/departments_parks_recreation), for a map of the township parks).

If auto travel is your pleasure, there are three roads with "Natural Beauty" designation to explore in the township: Napler Road (west side) from Plymouth/Ann Arbor Road to Warren Road, Warren Road from Curtis Road to Dixboro Road, and Gale Road from Cherry Hill Road to Geddes Road.

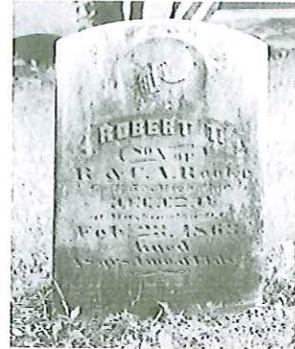
Enjoy the beauty of the season in your township!

Superior Township and the Civil War by Marion Morris

This year marks 150 years since the Civil War began on April 12, 1861. Volunteers were called upon to serve three years for \$14 to \$20 per month, plus hardtack and bacon. In Superior Township, there are four historical cemeteries, created when the first settlers came, circa 1830. This is the story of four Civil War veteran's graves found in three of the cemeteries.

Private Robert T. Rooke

Robert was the son of Robert and Cassie Ann Rooke, and the grandson of John and Alma Rooke. The Rookes owned an 80-acre farm on Gotfredson Road, south of Ford Road. Their lovely brick farmhouse still stands today. On August 5, 1862, Robert enlisted for three years in the Detroit, Company H, 5th Cavalry. The rendezvous for Michigan Cavalry was Grand Rapids for training of men and horses. The quarters were poor, and the winter of 1862 was very bitter. Men were ill on the trains as they went to Washington. Robert died of disease in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 1863, at the age of 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. His gravestone at Free Church Cemetery reads: "When far from home of his childhood, he suffered and no gentle mother's hand to soothe his aching brow. Thus he died in that southern land. He hath done all things well."



George F. Smith

At age 26, George enlisted in the 2nd Company Sharpshooters, 27th Infantry on February 26, 1864 for three years at Fayette, Michigan. He fought under Ulysses S. Grant against Robert E. Lee, and was wounded in action at Spottsylvania, Virginia. He was mustered out of the service at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 29, 1865. He died on May 8, 1892 at age 54 and is buried at Pray Cemetery.



Captain Teumis V. Quackenbush

He entered the service in Whitmore Lake on August 26, 1861, in Company G, 3rd Cavalry as a captain. He was 32 and served for three years. He was encamped for training at Grand Rapids and wounded in action at Coffeeville, Mississippi on December 5, 1862. He fought under William Sooy Smith and mustered out at Brownsville, Arkansas on October 24, 1864. He returned to Plymouth, Michigan where he married Rosaltha Parker, the daughter of Ira Parker in 1866. They moved to Superior Township where they had two children, George S. and Edgar John. Teumis died on April 9, 1916 at the age of 86 and is buried at Pray Cemetery.



Charles L. Downer

Charles was from Dixboro. On August 11, 1862, at age 18, he enlisted for three years. He served in Company D, 20th Infantry and mustered in on August 18, 1862. He was discharged with a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability at Falmouth, Virginia on February 20, 1863. His date of death cannot be seen on his gravestone at the Oakgrove Cemetery in Dixboro.



These are but four of the men who fought for the Union of our States. We know too, that the women and men of Superior Township contributed what they could: livestock, homemade socks, scarves, mittens, rolled bandages, etc.

Almost four years to the date when it began, the Civil War ended, in April 1865.

I thank the following for their assistance in research for this article:
Marcia McCrary and Karl Williams, Superior Township Historians
Betty Meyer, Sexton Free Church Cemetery
Ron Smith, Sexton, Oak Grove Cemetery

Bill Fishbeck, Sexton, Pray Cemetery
Dave Curtis, Canton, Civil War Historian
Sandi Lopez, Photographer and Editor

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Our Township is Superior!

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on recycled
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Our Superior Fire Department



Superior Township Fire Department has just taken delivery of a new, state of the art fire engine. Built by the KME-Kovatch organization located in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, it took nearly seven months to complete. The factory is located approximately 2 hours northwest of Philadelphia. Our personnel visited the plant on two occasions during the build process and drove the vehicle home to our department. The truck is replacing one of our two 21-year old Spartan/FMC's that were purchased together in 1990.

The other FMC is slated for replacement within the next two years. Both vehicles served our community well, but with over 120,000 miles on the odometer, it was time for replacement. Our department mechanics are very good, but the rapidly increasing maintenance costs more than justified the new purchase.

The new truck is equipped with a Cummins motor, Allison automatic transmission, 1500 gallon per minute water pump and carries 850 gallons of water. Safety features

were also updated, including antilock brakes, front and side airbags, and automatic traction control. Other features include LED emergency lighting, overhead ladder rack, Chevron reflective striping and a traffic directional arrow on the rear.

Recently retired firefighter Don Sanford, as well as Captain David Judson, deserve special thanks for spending countless hours writing, reviewing and designing a truck to fill the needs of the Superior Township Fire Department for the next 20 years.

The department will be more than happy to bring the apparatus around for the citizens of our community to see. All are welcome to stop by the station and hear all about the vehicle. Thank you for the funds needed and rest assured our department will be able to do the job of supplying our community with the very best fire and rescue service that can be provided.