

Volume 11 Issue 1

April, 2011

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Superior Township Board of Trustees

William McFarlane Supervisor
 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 N. 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 N. Prospect Road

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734-482-6099

education@superior-twp.org

From our Superior Supervisor . . .

William McFarlane

I am pleased to announce that Superior Township continues to survive the economic downturn without reducing service to our residents. Even with the loss of statutory state shared revenue and a reduction in property values, the Township remains in good shape. This is the result of good management practices. As an example, the Township has cross-trained staff so that staffing levels can be reduced through attrition.

Another example of good management practices can be found in the Township's fire and police services. There are no plans to reduce fire or police personnel as Superior Township continues to collaborate with Ann Arbor Township on joint police patrols. Collaboration makes more deputies avail-

able to answer requests for service from residents without increasing the cost to the Township. The Township Administrative staff continues to receive inquiries from neighboring communities regarding possible collaborative opportunities which would increase service and decrease cost. However, there must be a demonstrated value either by increased efficiency or cost savings. We will not collaborate or consolidate without demonstrated value to Superior Township residents.



William McFarlane

In the Fire Department, the Township is buy-

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Superior news you can use

Mary Garboden

The Ypsilanti District Library-Superior is buzzing with activity! Youth ages 8-12 can join the Creativity Club, where participants engage their imaginations while getting to know other kids.

To sign up, call 482-4110, ext. 1342.

We continue to hold weekly Tuesday morning story-times and Wii Wednesday gaming.

In April, we'll host an after-hours movie night, Magnet Decorating, and make Nylon Windsocks.

Adults can drop in two days a month for assistance with signing up for food stamps online.

For more information, call YDL-Superior at 482-4110, ext. 1391. We hope to see you soon!

Mary Garboden, Head of Outreach Services
 Ypsilanti District Library-Superior
 8975 MacArthur Blvd.
 (corner of Harris Road)
 Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Phone (734) 879-1316



News from our Superior Clerk

David Phillips

I want to thank all of Superior Township's election workers. They are the friendly people who work at the polls. They verify people are registered to vote, issue ballots and process them so that everyone's vote is properly counted. They perform many other duties to ensure our elections operate smoothly and accurately. They start at 6:00 a.m. and work until 10:00 p.m. or later. It can be a long and busy day. Their efforts are a key part to making our democratic process work. If you are interested in working as an election worker, please contact Clerk David Phillips at the Township Hall.

There are two elections this year. On May 3, 2011 there is a county wide election. The only issue on the ballot is a millage renewal request by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District of .9850 mills for a period of seven years. The millage will be used for special education. On November 8, 2011, there will be an election for school board members for all school districts in Superior Township. 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) 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. You may also 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. 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

FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE NOW AVAILABLE IN SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

In December 2010, Superior Township joined 21,000 other communities nationwide that are allowed to purchase federally backed flood insurance. This availability followed the Township's adoption and enforcement of ordinances to reduce flood losses and acceptance by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood insurance is now available to local property owners and may be purchased from any insurance agent or broker licensed to do business in the State of Michigan.

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 email 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 meeting schedule for 2011 is:

May 24th, July 26th, September 27th and November 22nd at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd., 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 – 2009

Here is a brief Summary

Property taxes for the 2009 Tax Season.

◦ Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,411,278	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,506,531
◦ Plymouth Schools:	\$ 233,796	Township Tax:	\$ 499,294
◦ Willow Run Schools:	\$ 2,871,013	Fire Department Tax:	\$ 1,767,593
◦ Ypsilanti Schools:	\$ 1,932,158	Law Fund Tax	\$ 1,310,447
◦ State Education:	\$ 3,716,899	Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 411,091
◦ Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 520,781	Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,286,204
◦ Community College:	\$ 2,246,434	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,152
		Wayne ISD:	\$ 122,971

In conclusion, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$381,657, 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, 775 parcels went delinquent; the total amount unpaid was \$1,516,986 and has been turned over to Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection.

2010 Blanket Express & Food Drive

Thank You for all of your support!

I would like to thank all of the Superior Township residents who supported and donated blankets and food for our drive. With all of your support, we were able to collect over 1000 blankets and four barrels of food. The food donations went to the Food Gatherers. The blankets went to various charities in our community. We will be participating again in December of 2011.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

- As you know, 2010 Summer & Winter Tax Collection ended February 28, 2011. Beginning March 1, 2011 taxes are now paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer. If you have any questions regarding your 2010 taxes, please contact your county Treasurer.
- New homeowners, please make sure to fill out and

return your Principal Residence Exemption Forms by May 1st in order to receive the 100% homestead exemption on your property taxes.

- Your Deferment Notices will be mailed June 1st. For those who have applied, please sign and return by September 15th. 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 Veterans, Eligible Widow or Widower, Blind, Totally or Permanently Disabled may apply. Having a Deferment allows homeowners to pay taxes until April 30th without penalties. Effective since 2009, all Dog Licenses must be purchased with the Washtenaw County Treasurer. Application forms with prepaid postage are available here at your Township Treasurer's office.

(Continued from page 1) Supervisor

ing a new fire truck using the truck replacement fund. This fund was created by the Township Board placing small amounts in a replacement fund every year. This means the Township will pay cash for the truck without any interest charges. The truck should last about twenty years.

On another positive financial note, the Township has been able to reduce the cost of a sanitary sewer bond and improve the Township's overall bond rating. Over ten years ago, the Township was experiencing problems with the main Township sanitary sewer interceptor backing up into homes and overflowing into the streets. This sewer line was built during World War II for the bomber plant war housing. In 2000, the Township entered into a bond agreement with the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) called the *YCUA 2000 Sanitary Sewer System No. 2 Bond*. The purpose for the bond was to help pay for significant improvements in Superior Township's and YCUA's sanitary sewer infrastructures. Superior's portion of the bond was \$6,350,000.

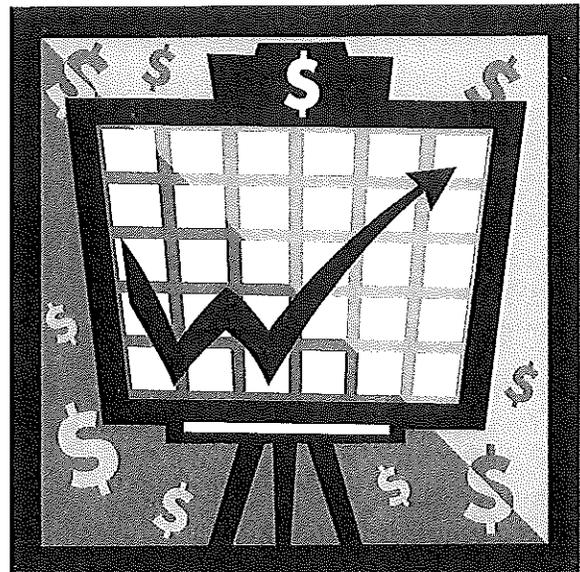
In late summer of 2010, the Township investigated ways to reduce costs associated with the repayment of the bond. By working with public financial consultants Stauder, Barch and Associates, Superior Township was able to reduce our interest rate from 5.10% to 2.64%, resulting in a savings of \$460,000. We also determined that paying down the principal by \$1,000,000 would result in an additional \$180,000 reduction, making the savings to the Township a grand total of \$640,000 over the remaining ten-year payment schedule. Superior Township also received an adjusted bond rating from AA- to an improved AA.

Unfortunately I must report that the Riverine Development Company has indicated they are still pursuing their application for a large private wastewater treatment plant designed to serve their 1,950 unit manufactured home development proposed near Superior Road and Geddes Roads. Superior Township first objected to the private wastewater treatment plant application to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in October 2005. The MDEQ agreed with Superior Township and denied the permit. Riverine appealed the decision. Superior Township continues to object to the pending appeal via legal counsel and with Township Administrative staff attending MDEQ hearings.

The most recent hearing was on January 19, 2011. The Township Board may need to request in the future the reestablishment of the legal defense millage to continue the costly legal proceedings. Superior Township has ample undeveloped property in the urban service area for development with public sanitary sewer and water readily available. It does not seem logical to leapfrog into a pristine agriculture area bypassing the goals of the Township Master Plan. For additional information, please see *Rock Ridge Manufactured Housing Community Update* on the Township's website homepage www.superior-twp.org.

While the Washtenaw County Road Commission is 100% responsible for road maintenance, the Township Board has again dedicated Township funds for road improvements in 2011. Along with Road Commission matching funds, approximately \$200,000 will be allocated to local street improvements. These funds will be equitably distributed throughout the entire Township.

Finally, there is conversation at the state level regarding reducing or eliminating state statutory revenue sharing. This will not affect Superior Township as we lost that statutory revenue stream several years ago. It is never good to lose a source of revenue that allows communities to provide service. However, communities must live within a budget and provide the services that fall within their budgets. Superior Township is still in a good position to provide all the basic services, including road improvements, police and fire protection without reductions. I hope everyone has a Superior summer.



Our Superior Utilities

Diana Rivis

SPECIAL NOTICE: The Utility Department Administration Building (located at the corner of Prospect and Clark Roads) has reopened.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the department's hours, phone number and location?

In 2010, the Township was awarded a grant through a program whose purpose was to assist eligible cities, townships and counties in implementing energy efficiency and conservation projects. As a result of this award, the Utility Department Administration Building was closed last year from June 1st through October 30th. During this period, the building was under construction while some much needed energy saving improvements were made that were paid for primarily by the grant.

- ◆ 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.

These improvements included such things as replacing the furnace, entry doors and light fixtures, as well as sealing the attic and adding insulation to both the attic and the exterior building walls. Since the building was already under construction, some additional improvements were also made that had originally been planned for the future, such as replacing the drive-through window, removing some interior walls and other minor improvements.

We are happy to announce that the improvements were completed and that the building has reopened.



Our Superior Parks

Keith Locke

Spring/Summer/Fall Fun in Superior Township Parks!
Mark your calendars! Your Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department is scheduling Saturday fun days for kids of all ages.

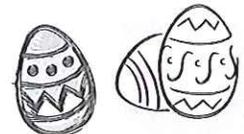
- July 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fireman's Park (MacArthur @ Harris) - Kite & Rocket Building
- August 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Community Park (Stamford Rd.) - 3 on 3 Basketball
- October 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Norfolk Park (Norfolk Dr.) - Pumpkin Carving/Arts & Crafts

Events will be held on 5 different Saturdays, each with a special theme. All events will have fun activities and lunch or snacks.

Please visit www.superior-twp.org for further information.
Hope to see you there!

April 16, starting at 11 a.m. at Fireman's Park
(MacArthur @ Harris) - Egg Hunt

June 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakbrook Park (Berkshire Dr.) - Kickball



Contacts you can use

Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd., 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, 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.

Washtenaw Collection Center, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, 734-222-3950, www.ewashtenaw.org Accepts home toxics and other recyclables. Contact for cost and hours.

Recycle Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor, 734-971-7400, www.recycleannarbor.org accepts electronics and other recyclables. Contact for cost and hours.

United Way - Call 2-1-1, or (800) 552-1183 or www.uwsem.org/211 for assistance with finding a job and job training, shelter, food pantries, rent assistance, legal aid, medical services, care for seniors and more.

Organic & Community Gardening Free program Saturday May 14, 2011 10 a.m.

**Presented by the Committee to Promote
Superior Township**

**Superior Township Hall
3040 N. Prospect Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48170**

**Jay Schlegel, Director
Southeast Michigan
Land Conservancy
Conservancy Farm
Committee Chair**



**Dan Bair, Farm Manager
The Farm at St. Joe's
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital**



**Andy Comal, Director
Project Grow and
The Discovery Garden
Ann Arbor area**

Join us!

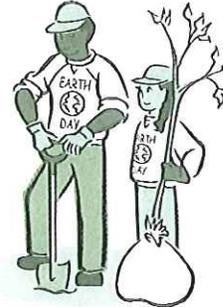
Superior Activities

Here are some more things you may want to do now that it is spring in Superior Township.

Spring Tree and Plant Sale - The Washtenaw County Conservation District is holding its *Spring Conservation Plants and Products* sale. Trees, shrubs and native plants can be ordered for pick-up in April and May. Please call the District Office at (734) 761-6721 x 5 for more information or visit www.washtenawcd.org

Rain Barrels - The Conservation District is also promoting rain barrels as a way for homeowners to save money on outdoor watering costs and reduce stormwater pollution. Visit www.washtenawcd.org to learn more about rain barrels or to order one.

Rain Gardens - Washtenaw County's Water Resource Commissioner's office provides many ideas for creating rain gardens. For help in the design and implementation of a rain garden, visit the website at www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_waterquality.



“One Superior Place”

A committee of Superior Township residents has been established to help foster pride, unity and a sense of place among Superior Township residents.

The goal is simple. We want to promote the township by informing residents (current and future) about all of the wonderful things to do and see throughout the community. Superior is a township of deep-rooted history and is full of wonderful scenic features that many are unaware of.

We invite you to get involved! Residents who are interested in participating are encouraged to get involved by coming to the meetings and sharing their ideas and suggestions. Even those who have ideas, but are unable to attend the meetings, are encouraged to get involved by submitting their ideas to the group.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. at the Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd. (corner of Cherry Hill and Prospect) in Superior Township. Call 734-482-6099 for further details.

Our Superior Wetlands

Wetlands are a valuable natural resource. They provide storage for rainwater and snowmelt. Some provide a groundwater recharge function. Others help filter pollutants from storm water and serve as wildlife nurseries and habitats. Wetlands have also become important amenities for those who like the natural view and the wildlife that live or visit there. One example:

Rare plants and animals spotted in the Huron River watershed

By Jo Latimore and Elizabeth Riggs

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 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. Contact the council to get more information at 734-769-5123 in Ann Arbor.

Superior Charter Township
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Our Township is Superior!

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Our Superior Fire Department

Fire Chief, Jim Roberts

Superior Township Fire is currently in the process of replacing one of the two FMC fire engines that were purchased at the same time in 1991. After 21 years of faithful service that included over 115,000 road miles and thousands of responses to emergencies, it will be replaced by a new engine. It will be officially retired sometime near the end of this year. A new engine purchasing committee was formed last fall to design our new replacement. A request to bid was advertised and a contract was awarded to the successful bidder.

KME Fire Apparatus out of Pennsylvania was chosen to build a custom KME Predator pumper with a 1000 gallon water tank. Fire fighter Donny Sanford was placed in charge of the project and has occupied the lead role since inception of the committee. After Township Board approval, the contract was signed on January 19, 2011. It will take

approximately 270-300 days to complete the apparatus and have it delivered to our community. The engine will cost \$458,000 and expected service life will be a minimum of 20 years. It will be powered by a 425 hp Cummins diesel engine and have the capacity to pump 1500 gallons of water a minute through a Waterous single stage pump.

The resiliency, jack-of-all-trades and can-do attitude of these fire fighters, especially the mechanics, is fascinating to watch and a pleasure to manage. We will be working with Mr. Chris Payette of Payette and Associates who sold us the apparatus and Mr. Adam Graves who is the engineer assigned to this project until completion. Be sure to come see our new apparatus this fall.

