



October, 2014

Superior Scenes

3040 N. Prospect Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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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 Road, 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 . . .

Over the last year Superior Township has invested heavily in our physical infrastructure. The quality of life in Superior Township is determined in large part by how well our infrastructure is delivering municipal services to residents.

So far in 2014 Superior Township has invested in a number of infrastructure improvements, including roads and paths, utilities, stormwater management, and more.

Superior Township funded many road improvements in 2014 including the milling and resurfacing of Devon and Nottingham in the Washington Square subdivision and Manchester in Oakbrook subdivision. These improvements replaced almost a mile of defective roads. Not only does this investment affect the homeowner with a new road, but it improves the economic climate for the entire Township. We have now almost completely rebuilt the road system for Washing-

ton Square. In 2015, our focus will be on maintenance and upkeep.

There's nothing but good news about housing prices in our mature subdivisions.

Homeowners are experiencing rising housing prices. Several established landlords tell me that they are now selling their rental houses in Superior Township because the value of the property has increased to the point that a sale is more profitable than continuing to rent. This is great news! From the Township's perspective, a sale of the home is more beneficial since it uncaps the taxable value and generates more revenue for the Township, while raising housing values and home equity throughout the neighborhoods. Plus selling



Kenneth Schwartz,
Supervisor

Continued on page 7

Inside this issue:

News from our - Superior Clerk - Neighborhood Watch	2
News from our - Superior Treasurer	3
From Our Superior - Clean-up Day - TheRide - Ypsilanti Library	4
Superior News - Utility Department - Wetlands Board	5
Our Superior News - Blood Drive - Superior Fire News	6
Our Superior Fire Department	8

News from our Superior Parks

Keith Lockie

This year your Parks Department has been working hard to make the Township Parks even more superior!

- We've organized recreational activities for kids and families including an Easter Egg Hunt, a Kites and Rockets Day, Kick-ball, participated in the festivities at Superior Day, Reach One Teach One, YDL's Ice Cream Social and the Dixboro Fair.
- We put new roofs on the pavilions at Norfolk and Harvest Moon Parks, and we are planning a new pavilion for Fireman's Park.

- We're working with Washtenaw County to put in trails connecting Schroeter Park with the County's new Weatherbee Woods Preserve.
- We're clearing the way for an addition to our new boardwalk at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

Pumpkin Carving!

Please join us for pumpkin carving and arts and crafts on October 18, 2014 at Norfolk Park on Norfolk Avenue, just around the block from Oakbrook Park. Pumpkins and refreshments will be provided! Rain date, if needed, will be October 25, 2014.

News from our Superior Clerk

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Election

There will be a general election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The ballot will include the offices of U.S. Senate and Congress, Governor, Secretary of State and other state, county and local offices, several important local proposals and two statewide proposals. Sample ballots for all precincts are posted on the township website, www.superior-twp.org. All five precincts will be open for voters at their usual location. For those of you who need to vote absentee, I have placed information and forms on the township website, www.superior-twp.org.

If you are expecting to be out of the community on Election Day, are 60 years of age or older, disabled, are an active member of the U.S. military or their dependent, or are a U.S. citizen residing overseas, 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 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. 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 David Phillips, telephone: 734-482-6099 extension #14, or e-mail: davidphillips@superior-twp.org



**David Phillips,
Clerk**

Master Plan Review and Update

At the direction of the Township Board of Trustees, the Township's Planning Commission has been working on a review and amendment of the Township's Master Plan. The Township's Planning Consultants, along with Ann Arbor SPARK, have provided assistance to the Planning Commission. The amendments focus on expanding the Planned Manufacturing zoning in portions of Sections 32 and 33. The Hyundai America Technical Center is an example of Planned Manufacturing zoning use. Township officials and Planning Commission members have expressed support for expanding this type of development in the selected areas. The amendment is also proposing to expand the future uses proposed for the far southeast corner of the Township to include office/service land uses. Such uses on the approximately 65 acres in

Continued on page 4

Our Superior Neighborhood Watch

John Hudson

Our Township Coordinator for Neighborhood Watch is John Hudson. If you have concerns or questions about crime in the Township and would like to receive Neighborhood Watch information by email, including monthly crime reports and alerts, contact jhudson300606MI@comcast.net. Our alerts include copies of monthly crime reports and up-to-the-minute alerts received from the Sheriff's department and information received from citizens. Neighborhood Watch is an effective means of conducting community enforcement, and it relies on community awareness, involvement and communication.

Neighborhood Watch meets bimonthly with representatives from the Washtenaw County Sheriff. A Sheriff's Department official is usually in attendance and available to answer your questions. Recent guest speakers have included Sheriff Clay-

ton and Fire Chief Roberts before his retirement.

Meetings are open to all and are held at 7:00 on the fourth Tuesday every other month depending on scheduling of the meeting space. The next meeting will be on November 25th at the Old Town Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Road, across the parking lot from the Township Hall. JOIN US!



News from our Superior Treasurer



Brenda L. McKinney,
Treasurer

Treasurer's Mission Statement:

The Superior Township Treasurer is committed "to provide prompt, courteous, and efficient service to the public." The Treasurer is committed to handling public funds with the highest degree of integrity and accountability.

Your Tax Dollars at Work – 2013

Ann Arbor Schools:	\$ 2,284,375	Washtenaw County:	\$ 3,112,903
Plymouth Schools:	\$ 238,491	Township Tax:	\$ 218,539
Ypsi Comm Schools:	\$ 3,801,394	Fire Department Tax:	\$ 1,600,632
State Education:	\$ 3,237,047	Law Fund Tax:	\$ 1,200,474
Ypsilanti Library:	\$ 544,480	Ann Arbor Library:	\$ 385,325
Wash Comm College:	\$ 1,863,016	Washtenaw ISD:	\$ 2,016,523
Wayne ISD:	\$ 113,714	Schoolcraft College:	\$ 2,004
		Legal Defense Fund:	\$ 66,693

In addition, the Township also collected Special Assessments in the amount of \$363,014, which included County Drains, Streetlights, Side Street Maintenance for Oakbrook and Washington Square, Delinquent Water Bills, Ordinance Violations, False Alarms, and Hyundai Road Improvement.

Out of 6,080 parcels, 494 went delinquent. The total amount delinquent was \$791,306 and was turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection as of March 1, 2014.

What You Should Know About Your Taxes

Willow Run and Ypsilanti Schools Consolidation: Willow Run school taxes will continue to be collected on the summer tax bill. If this change in the collection schedule has affected your escrow account, my office will be happy to send a letter to your mortgage company to explain why the school taxes have been transferred to the summer tax bill.

Summer Collection: Taxes are payable July 1 through September 14 without interest charge. Beginning September 15 through September 30, a statutory 1% interest charge per month will be added on the first of each month to the unpaid balance.

Winter Collection: Taxes are payable beginning December 1 and are due by February 14. All taxes unpaid by March 1 must be paid to the Washtenaw County Treasurer with

additional interest and penalties.

Partial Payments: Upon receipt of your tax bill, partial payments in any dollar amount will be accepted; however, any taxes unpaid by the statutory due dates will be subject to applicable interest and penalty fees.

Escrow Payments: Homeowners who have refinanced—please have your bank contact my office with new mailing information.

Mail Payments: Tax payments should be mailed to 3040 N. Prospect Rd., Ypsilanti, MI, 48198. Please note that postmarks are not accepted and allow for sufficient mailing time.

Online Tax Payments: Will begin December 1 and end February 2 for winter bills only.

New Homeowners: Please make sure to fill out and return your Principal Residence Exemption forms in order to be exempt from the school operating millages.

Summer/Winter Tax Deferments: Qualified applicants may defer payment of their taxes until April 30 without interest or penalties. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (734) 482-6099 to request an application form if you have not received one by mail. Summer tax deferment applications must be signed and returned by September 14. Winter tax deferment applications must be signed and returned by February 14.

County Clean-up Day, Oct. 18th

As in previous years, the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program in conjunction with Superior Township, Eastern Michigan University, and the City of Ann Arbor will be hosting a county-wide clean-up day from 9am – 2pm on October 18th in the west parking lot of EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

This event will accept recyclable material, electronics, and household hazardous material. This includes glass, cardboard, paper, scrap metal, cleaning supplies, motor oil, paint, pesticides, sharps, Freon appliances, furniture, tires, computers, televisions, monitors, printers, and more. Household garbage is not accepted.

This clean-up event is for Washtenaw County residents, not businesses. The event is free, however participants bringing more than 4 tires or more than one large appliance (or computer) will be asked to make a \$5 donation for each

additional tire, and a \$10 donation for each additional large appliance (or computer). Additional donations are welcome.

Last year this event drew over 1000 participating vehicles over a 5-hour period, so while the organizers do their best to rapidly unload vehicles, there may be a wait at some stations. The station with the longest delay is usually the Home Toxics (paint/cleaners/motor oil/fertilizer/pesticides) as handling that material generally requires more care. Washtenaw County runs a separate Home Toxics Collection from April – November, 9am – Noon, on the first 3 Saturdays of each month at their Zeeb Road collection center.

For more information about this and other Washtenaw County recycling initiatives visit: www.ewashtenaw.org or perform a web search for Washtenaw recycling.

TheRide

On August 24, 2014, TheRide extended service on the #10 bus route, which serves Superior Township. The bus still runs once an hour but has longer hours. Mon – Fri, the bus will pick

up in Superior Township from approximately 7:30 a.m. until 9:45 p.m. On Saturdays the hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Please consult AAATA's bus schedules for the exact time for your bus stop. For more details please go to TheRideYourWay.org.

Ypsilanti District Library

If you are homebound in Superior Township, and can't get to the library, the library will come to you. Residents who reside in the Ypsilanti District Library service area can receive books, books on tape, and movies delivered to them at home. Call the Ypsilanti Library at (734) 482-4110, extension 1359, for more information on their "Books on Wheels" program.

Free Tutoring returns to YDL-Superior

Again this year, Ms. Susan Taylor will offer free drop-in tutoring at YDL-Superior located at 8795 MacArthur Boulevard. Ms. Taylor is a Superior Township resident and a librarian at the Detroit Public Library. She is available to help kids in

grades K-8 with any subject. No registration is needed and students can drop in between 4-6pm on Mondays from September 29 - December 15. Don't forget to bring your homework!

Join us for learning at your own pace and get the help you need to be successful.

Superior Township Branch Library hours: Monday, 12-8pm; Tuesday and Saturday, 10am-6pm; Wednesday and Thursday, 4pm-8pm. Closed Friday and Sunday.



(Continued from page 2) Superior Clerk



Section 36 would include professional or technical offices, warehouses and other similar non-residential uses. The public's comments are welcome at any point during the adoption process. Comments can be forwarded to David Phillips, Township Clerk. A complete copy of the proposed amendments will be available at the Township Hall or on the Township webpage, superior-twp.org.

Our Superior Utilities

Keith Lockie

Department News:

This year we were awarded a SAW grant by the State of Michigan DEQ in the amount of \$505,000, to be used to inspect the water/sewer district's sewer system. This work, to begin later this year, will allow the Township to identify any problems in our sewer system and correct them before any damage to the infrastructure can occur.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What are the department's location, contact information and hours?

- We are located at 575 E. Clark Rd. (@Prospect Rd.) & have a drop-box on the east side of building.
- Phone: 734-480-5500, Fax: 734-484-4883, Email: utilitydept@superior-twp.org
- Our drive-through winter hours (beginning Oct. 6) are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Office Winter hours (beginning October 6) are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Home appointments can be scheduled (beginning October 6) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2. What are my payment options?

- Payments made 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 & Discover only) and bank account payments (checking and savings) 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](#)

3. What do I need to do if I plan to move from my home or am new to the Township?

If you are moving in or out of your home, please contact the Utility Department at least 24 hours prior to your move date to arrange for a final meter reading, so that you will not be charged for water used after you have moved out, or prior to you moving in. Also, we will need your billing information at that time.

4. What do I do if I 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 anytime, 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 correct.



Our Superior Wetlands Board

A watershed is an area that drains to a common waterway, like a creek or stream; which then drains to a larger body of water, like the ocean.

Wetlands provide a link between watershed and water. Wetlands filter the water running into the stream, river or ocean, cleaning it of toxins that could cause pollution in major waterways.

The Superior Township Wetlands Board meets twice a year at which time they review and discuss various activities and

developments in the Township that may affect wetlands. The Wetlands Ordinance also requires the Board to meet for various other reasons, which include to hear appeals of any decision made by the Wetlands Administrator and to undertake activities to protect wetlands. Members of the Wetlands Board have also assisted other organizations with clean-up of water courses, invasive species removal, habitat preservation and other preservation, stewardship and improvement activities in both the Huron and Rouge watershed areas of the Township.



Superior Township Blood Drive

Committee to Promote Superior Township

The Committee to Promote Superior Township works to foster pride, unity and a sense of place among our residents.

This year, the Committee thought that a blood drive might be a way of engaging Township residents of all stripes in a project where we could work together and demonstrate our Superior Township pride and unity.

We soon learned that organizing a blood drive is no small task! Fortunately, the Red Cross is a marvelous partner and mentor, and they helped us every step of the way. They also provided incentive items to donors from other partners: Cedar Point tickets to be raffled, and vouchers for \$10 off a HoneyBaked ham.

Superior Township provided use of the main meeting room and other facilities at Township Hall. A Red Cross representative reviewed the site in advance to make sure we had appropriate space, the required numbers of tables and chairs, and so on.

The Committee to Promote Superior Township (C2PST) put up posters and signs around the Township, and approached prospective blood donors at the Superior Day event, Township Board meetings, and Neighborhood Watch meetings; as well as asking Township employees to consider donating.

The Township put notices on the Township website and the marquee sign at Prospect & Clark.

When the day of the blood drive arrived, we really weren't sure what to expect. The Red Cross arrived early to set up with all of their equipment and supplies. Local volunteers from the C2PST helped with non-medical tasks like signing people in when they arrived, and making sure blood donors consumed juice and a snack after giving.

In the end, the Superior Township Blood Drive attracted 29 potential blood donors, of whom 20 were able to complete their donations. The Red Cross deemed this a great success! We didn't know it ahead of time, but 20 pints of blood was the goal they had set for this drive. They say that each pint of blood helps three people, so we helped 60 people!

This is only the latest example of the generosity and caring spirit of the Superior Township community.

To learn about some of the other features that make this One Superior Place, visit www.superior-twp.org and choose One Superior Place, Superior Places; or stop by Township Hall and peruse the Superior Places information binder.

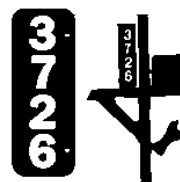
[The Committee to Promote Superior Township meets at Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd., on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Residents who want to participate or simply learn more are welcome and encouraged to join us.]

Superior Fire News

employees for their dedication and leadership provided to the community.

Over two weekends in August, four members of the Fire Department attended and successfully completed a Fire Instructor One course that was hosted by the Ann Arbor Township Fire Department. The goal of this intense course is to produce superior fire instructors in the State of Michigan. The four Superior members that attended were: Chief Brian C. Thurston, Captain Jeff French, Firefighter Jeff Kujawa, and Firefighter Chris Wiggins. Future instructors from throughout southeast Michigan attended the course which was taught by members from the Grand Rapids and Portland Area Fire Departments. Attendees were put through their paces by having to instruct and perform presentations in front of 10 other peers. Successfully completing this course required passing both a written and a performance evaluation in front of a state evaluator. Superior Township can be proud of these

----- Life Signs for sale -----



Our Superior Fire Department has 'Life Signs' for sale. These are the green reflective address signs that help identify residences and businesses particularly at night. The idea behind the reflective signs is to make it easier for emergency response vehicles (fire, police, and ambulance) to locate addresses when they are responding to emergency calls. Life Signs cost \$25.00 each and are available by calling our Fire Station # 1 @ 734-484-1996.

(Continued from page 1)

a house to a couple or family that homesteads the property benefits the Township as the new owner is more likely to be invested in the success of the Township than a tenant.

Better roads and other municipal improvements are the linchpins to the revitalization of our subdivisions. I can report to you that your Superior Township Board is committed to funding improvements throughout the Township as the return on investment can be directly measured by increases in the tax roll and by greater home values and faster home sales. What's difficult to measure, but is real nevertheless, is the intangible benefits of neighborhood cohesion and the solid sense of living in a good and affordable community.

As we improve our paved roads we will continue to focus on our local network of gravel roads. This fall over 3,000 tons of limestone will be spread and compacted on gravel roads throughout the Township, and we will continue to work with the County Road Commission to improve road drainage by cleaning ditches and removing berms that impede the flow of water off our gravel roads.

For the first time since our non-motorized trails were constructed, the Township undertook to provide winter and summer maintenance. Last winter snow was removed from these paths for the first time, and this summer most of the paths were repaired and seal coated. Superior Township has invested heavily in safety paths over the years with our partners at the Washtenaw County Parks and we have saved the funds necessary to preserve and protect these paths indefinitely.

To further improve the experience for users of the paths, we removed over 45 invasive trees along MacArthur, Heather and Nottingham. No longer do users have to walk around dirty mulberry trees and unsightly tree matter. We also planted over 20 Crimson King and October Glory Maple trees along the paths, filling in the gaps in the tree line and beautifying the entire area. Next year I plan on asking the Board to remove all the dead trees bordering the path on Geddes Road and to repaint the pedestrian bridges.

Superior Township has over 20 miles of water and sewer lines serving our urban service district residents. These lines have been installed over many years. Some go back to WWII while others were installed only a few years ago. In order to manage the public utilities in a professional manner, we engaged our engineering consultants – Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment – to develop a water and sewer capital improvement program for 2014 through 2018. This process identified all future capital projects. We capitalized the improvements and set targets for capital and operating costs for the next five years. We also identified ways to pay for the improvements over time while minimizing the impact upon the rates customers pay. A copy of the capital improvement plan

is available for review at the Township Hall.

In late 2013, Superior Township applied to the State of Michigan for a Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater grant (SAW Grant). Competition among municipalities was intense, and I am happy to inform you that the Department of Environmental Quality awarded Superior Township a grant in the amount of \$505,000.00 in April 2014. The intent of the SAW grant program is to accelerate the statewide use of asset management planning practices to improve water quality. Superior Township will implement the necessary changes for which grant funding was provided, including the complete inspection of our sanitary collection system, lift stations, and pipes; and execute the work necessary to make our collection system consistent with 21st century practices. All of our stormwater and treated sewage eventually flows to Lake Erie. The Great Lakes is Michigan's greatest natural resource, and even Superior Township, 50 miles from the nearest shore, has an obligation to maintain and promote our fresh waters forever.

This summer the Township Board undertook to conduct a state-mandated water reliability study. This encompasses a complete hydraulic analysis of the water system. The hydraulic analysis will include the production of water pressure maps for the entire Township water system and show available fire protection. The analysis will evaluate water storage and generate a comprehensive map of the system showing service boundaries and locations of water system components such as pumps and boosters and water mains. We will evaluate the size, materials and age of the entire water system and make recommendations to implement changes that will upgrade and service all of our water users for decades to come as the Township grows.

Finally, the Utility Department purchased a new pole barn building for cold storage at the Utility Maintenance Facility. Construction should begin in October and take about a month to complete. Once the new structure is built, the old cold storage building at the corner of Harris and MacArthur will be dismantled and repurposed by a local horse farmer.

As winter comes we will be prepared to meet the challenges caused by snowstorms. A new snow emergency ordinance will be in effect this winter, which will require all cars to be removed from the public streets once a snow emergency is declared. Pay attention to local radio stations, the Township website and the marquee at the Utility Administrative Building for notice of a snow emergency. Removal of vehicles for a short period of time is the best way to get the snow cleared and to restore the roads to a safe and passable condition. This winter the paths will be maintained so you may travel safely on foot.

Superior Township residents, you may call me at 734-482-6099 to discuss your own important concerns.

Our Superior Fire Department

Chief Brian Thurston



Fire Chief Brian C. Thurston and the nine members of the Superior Township Fire Department want to extend a grateful Thank-you to the community for the overwhelming support in our millage renewal vote. If we can ever be of assistance please call at (734) 484-1996. Once again, THANK YOU!

"Change your Clock, Change your Batteries." With the arrival of fall weather, comes the annual ritual of the end of daylight savings time and return to standard time. This year the date is Sunday, November 2nd. This date is also important in that it is also the date to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. "Change your Clock, Change your Batteries."

On August 28, 2014, a coffee reception was held in celebration of the retirement of Fire Marshal Wayne Dickinson, thereby ending a career of over 43 years. Many well-wishers attended, and greeted Wayne with congratulations. Wayne began his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter in November of 1970. In October of 1971, he was hired as a fulltime firefighter and through the years rose through the ranks to become a Captain and eventually to the Fire Marshal position. Wayne, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, proudly served Superior Township as the Fire Marshal for over 20

years. Wayne's dedication and vast knowledge of the community will be badly missed.

The Superior Township Fire Department will receive new firefighting equipment as part of a regional grant from the Department of Homeland Security. This regional grant, the first of its kind in Washtenaw County, involves five other fire departments. The equipment being purchased is the special protective clothing that each member wears to emergencies. This grant was jointly written by members from the Superior Township, Pittsfield Township, and Ann Arbor Township fire departments. The savings to the Township will be over \$22,000. Nice job guys. It is likely that there will be more regional grants applied for in the future based on the success of this grant.



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Our Township is Superior!

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